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Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board approve the contract with Bulldog Fire Apparatus for the purchase of a new ambulance in the amount of \$164,998. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PEER-TO-PEER GRANT APPLICATION

Town Planner Steve Wallace was on hand to discuss the Peer-to-Peer Grant application. He stated that the Town’s project centered around finding a freight rail consultant to help size up the impact of the layover station on the Park’s ability to provide freight rail access to the remaining lots inside the Park. According to the DHCD Peer-to-Peer Program the Town can only utilize current municipal officials or employees and not private consultants. Unfortunately, most municipalities do not have freight rail experts on their staff.

Mr. Wallace was able to contact the Lenox Planner, Mary Albertson, who has familiarity with rail issues and is willing to be a Peer Consultant.

Mr. Wallace proposed to revise the scope of the project and have a Town Planner work on the Town’s behalf with the following arrangements:

The Peer Consultant will arrange a site visit with a freight rail engineer from the railroad’s parent company (Pan Am) for the purpose of conducting a site assessment of the layover station and its impact on the remaining parcels in the Westminster Business Park and their ability to utilize the freight rail line. For the site visit, the business park owners and local officials will be invited to attend. For a work product, the Peer consultant will write up the results of this site assessment, highlighting issues to address in the mitigation agreement as they relate to freight rail access.

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board approve the proposed changes as requested by Town Planner Steve Wallace. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Flanagan addressed taking another step in looking at this from an engineering perspective. Mr. Wallace suggested that the Board consider utilizing a WPI student in researching similar projects of other towns regarding layover stations and mitigation with facility managers. This student could gather mitigation agreements from other communities and analyze the data and do follow up interviews with these communities.

The Board agreed to have Mr. Wallace pursue utilizing a WPI student for this purpose.

STATE DEVELOPMENT FUND – FYI

Mr. Wallace informed the Board that the State is offering a priority development fund for housing. The maximum funding of \$15,000 can be used to evaluate affordable housing in Town. Mr. Wallace suggested tapping into the money to do a feasibility analysis on the Senior Center site for affordable housing.



