

GOVERNOR'S SNOWMOBILE COUNCIL

May 6, 2020

Present:

Pat Poulin, Chair
Trevor Carbo, VT State Police
Paul Doucette, Police Chiefs and Southern Vermont Task Force
Shannon Fassett, Department of Motor Vehicles
Sean Fowler, Vermont Fish & Wildlife
Dick Jewett, Governor Appointee
Cindy Locke, VAST
Tim Mills, Governor Appointee
Gary Nolan, Law Enforcement Committee Chair
Star Poulin, Governor Appointee
Jessica Savage, Vermont Forest, Parks & Recreation
Brian Smith, Vermont Legislature

VAST Staff:

Ken Brown
Matt Therriault
Peggy Whiteneck

Guests:

Jeff Fay, VAST BOD

Chairman Pat Poulin called the meeting of the May 6, 2020 meeting of the Governor's Council to order at 3:00 PM. Because of Covid-19 precautions, the meeting was held via Zoom technology.

There being a quorum present for today's meeting, it was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting be accepted as circulated. Motion carried unanimously. (There was no meeting in April because of the Covid outbreak.)

Other agenda items were deferred in order for the Council to focus on reviewing the SSTP budget draft (see attachment). Matt Tetreault presented the budget and fielded questions. The Carry Forward line is there as a budget balancer and may not be needed if TMA sales go above a conservative projection of 16,000. Matt explained that the conservative TMA sales number is a function of the impact of the corona virus on members' discretionary income as well as the possibility that the 2021 season could be affected by a resurgence of the virus. If we have a good year, excess revenue will be carried over to the 2022 budget.

In response to questions, it was explained that there is a zero budget for equipment grants. It was explained that the \$148,000 income line for the gas tax should be enough to cover any equipment contingencies. Matt said he has already received three equipment grant applications, only one of which he feels

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is based on need as opposed to want. Matt also said he doesn't anticipate major equipment repairs based on what has already been expensed from the current budget, but, again, the gas tax should cover those.

It was noted that law enforcement is level funded and that insurance costs may go up.

In response to a question about line 1h, Snowmobile, although the item was purchased in the current budget, it is treated as a fixed asset for accounting purposes.

In response to a question, Jessica Savage noted that, if expenses exceed budget, the state grant would need to be amended to include receipts to cover that expense.

The SSTP budget will now go to the Trails Committee meeting in May 18th and from there to the Board for approval before coming back to the Governor's Council for final approval. Matt Tetreault and Ken Brown were thanked for their work with Sheila Fenoff-Willett to develop this draft.

Brian Smith asked that a paper copy of the budget be mailed to him or sent to his home email. Matt Tetreault will respond.

Cindy asked that a Zoom call be scheduled for the Law Enforcement Committee. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th at 3:00 PM.

The meeting of the May 6, 2020 Governor's Council was adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Whiteneck,
Recording Secretary