

**MINUTES OF THE
HVCEO
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19,1999
AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel.First Selectman Charles Steck and Alternate John Thiele
Bridgewater. First Selectman William Stuart, Chair, and Alternate Robert Brown
Brookfield. First Selectman Bonnie Smith and Alternate Lynn Beardsley
Danbury. Alternate Dennis Elpem
New Fairfield. First Selectman Patricia Gay
New Milford. Mayor Arthur Peitier and Alternate Patrick Maguire
Newtown. First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal
Redding. First Selectman Henry Bielawa
Ridgefield.First Selectman Abraham Morelli
Sherman.First Selectman Donna Tuck

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

State Representative Jeanne Garvey, Cat Nguyen and Steven Cadwallader of DPUC, from CL&P George Breitwieser and Raul DeBrigard, Harris Kretsge of J.P. Morgan Securities, Kathryn Husband of CT DOT, Lynn Waller of Danbury, Arthur Bogan of Down to Earth Environmental Solutions, from the Candlewood Lake Authority Bruce Lockhart, Harold Mayer and Larry Marsicano, Elaine LaBella of the Housatonic Valley Association, Robert Rush of the New Milford Rail Restoration Society, HVEDP Director Peg Daley, Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew of the HVCEO staff.

CALL TO ORDER AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chair W. Stuart at 12:35 P.M. Public comment was received from Lynn Waller of Danbury, asking that roles for municipalities as electricity sales aggregators in the newly deregulated environment be investigated that would serve residents, not just municipal accounts. Comment was then received from Robert Rush of the New Milford Rail Restoration Society opposing CT DOT cancellation of the long planned central train control system for the Danbury Branch Line.

MINUTES FROM 12/11/1998,12/30/1998 and 1/8/1999

On a motion made by Henry Bielawa and seconded by Charles Steck, the minutes of the HVCEO meetings of 12/11/1998, 12/30/1998 and 1/8/1999 were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 12/1998 and 1/1999

On a motion made by Henry Bielawa and seconded by Abraham Morelli, the financial statements for 12/1998 and 1/1999 were unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS CONCERNING CT DOT
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE KATHRYN HUSBAND**

Chairman William Stuart noted Kathryn Husband's many years of competent service assisting municipal officials with their transportation issues at CT DOT. He then announced that she became engaged on Valentine's Day and asked her to show members her engagement ring. Members responded to this news with applause.

**TIP AMENDMENTS: SURVEY MONUMENT UPGRADE
AND REVOKING OF BRANCH RAIL LINE UPGRADE**

An amendment requested by CT DOT concerned the upgrading of statewide monuments for survey control. Then staff proposed a letter of protest to CT DOT concerning the cancellation of TIP Project 302-TOO2, the installation of a modern signal and train control system on the Danbury Branch Line.

This upgrade had been planned for many years, would move the line beyond the manual switch era, had reached the design state, and was then abruptly canceled by CT DOT.

Then on a motion made by Abraham Morelli and seconded by Donna Turk it was voted unanimously 1) to approve the TIP amendment for the upgrading of statewide monuments for survey control and 2) to vigorously protest the abandonment of the signal and train control system on the Danbury Branch Line via a letter from Chairman William Stuart to CT DOT Commissioner James Sullivan. A meeting on this issue should also be requested. Arthur Peitler and other members urged forceful language in the letter concerning cancellation of the rail upgrade.

DANBURY HOSPITAL PEDIATRICS DEPARTMENT SERVICES AND MUNICIPAL HEALTH INITIATIVES
Patricia Gay introduced Dr. Jack Fong, whom she had invited to speak before the Council. A slide presentation was then made by Dr. Fong, who is Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Danbury Hospital. He reviewed Danbury Hospital's unique programs and how they relate to municipal health activities. Of particular relevance to municipalities will be a campaign he is coordinating to help teens resist lures in the media for alcohol and nicotine. This is to be offered in local school systems. A series of questions and answers followed, with thanks to Dr. Fong for the courtesy of his visit.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES UPDATE BY CL&P

George Breitwieser of CL&P then addressed the Council. He spoke to the issue of emergency response procedures that local police and fire on one side and then CL&P on the other maintain. These need good coordination as many fires and auto accidents involve electric utility infrastructure and associated hazards. He stated that CL&P representatives will soon be visiting municipal emergency response staff to improve crisis coordination by explaining new CL&P emergency procedures.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION WITH CL&P ON THE PROPOSED CANDLEWOOD LAKE BOTTOMLAND CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Representative Jeanne Garvey of New Milford led off the discussion of this issue, noting that speed was needed to work with DPUC deadlines and that an extension of the current 3/1/1999 deadline for completion of the easement and beach issues will be needed.

Remarks were then made by Harris Kretsge, Vice President of J. P. Morgan Securities, Inc., which is the DPUC appointed auction agent for the broader CL&P hydroproject sale including Candlewood Lake. He expressed his support for the preservation of Candlewood Lake and made recognition of its statewide importance. He suggested that the parties meet one week from today to review the details of the proposed municipal controls of bottomland and beaches, this to be followed immediately by an application for an extension of the DPUC deadline for completion of the easements or sale. Steve Cadwallader of DPUC also spoke, indicating that a deadline extension was feasible.

A spirited discussion on this issue and the impending DPUC deadline then followed. Members from Lake communities made strong reference to the fact that they had been waiting since 1/8/1999 for a response from CL&P to their draft conservation easement proposal, their attorney and staff having attempted to elicit a response from CL&P on several occasions since then.

Additional discussion included the issue of the timing of the proposed extension request to DPUC and the wording of an authorizing motion. Then on a motion made by Bonnie Smith and seconded by Patty Gay, it was voted unanimously to approve a request to DPUC for an extension of the 3/1/1999 deadline for completing the easement and beach negotiations, the specifics of the request to be determined by the members representing Lake communities at a special meeting of HVCEO to be held on 2/26/1999. Members directed staff to also place Candlewood Lake Authority budget requests on the agenda for that special meeting.

UPDATING AND DIGITAL REMASTERING OF HVCEO DATA BOOK

Senior Planner David Hannon then distributed the updated and reformatted HVCEO Data Book. This report remains one of the most sought after documents from HVCEO, he said. All of the statistical research content has been reformatted, with digital links now in place between the word processing report format and the work station where tables are updated.

HVCEO will also play a major role in the area in the dissemination of year 2000 census data and the coordination of this material into the current HVCEO data base, he said. Chairman Stuart complemented Dave on the update and its improved appearance.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Housatonic Valley Economic Development Partnership Director Peg Daley updated members on the status of the next set of land use education training sessions. These will be held on the evenings of 3/30/1999, 4/29/1999, and 9/30/1999. Members of land use commissions for all ten municipalities will receive individual invitations.

Municipal leaders were also updated on HVEDP's engagement of a firm to review brownfields sites in the Region and report on the possibility of grant funds for cleanup, and on making the state lists of chemically contaminated sites in the Region more accurate. The contractor to HVEDP, Art Bogan of Down to Earth Environmental Solutions based in Milford, CT answered questions.

Peg also reported that an application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration for HVEDP funding will soon be formulated. This step will lead to the certification of the Region for receipt of federal economic development funds. Congressional Representatives James Maloney and Nancy Johnson have offered their help. Also, a meeting of all local chambers of commerce local and economic development commissions in the Region will soon be held at the office of the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce.

OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Stuart spoke to the issue of low attendance by legislators at the annual January meeting with them to review the HVCEO legislative agenda. Discussion followed. It was agreed that the timing for this annual gathering would be moved from January to November to give legislators earlier input to the upcoming session. Members will also call legislators before these meetings to urge their attendance.

ANNUAL UNION LABOR STUDY

Attorney Catherine Thompson was then introduced. As her remarks were on the topic of regional coordination of municipal collective bargaining strategies, she advised the HVCEO to move into executive session, as authorized by CT freedom of information statutes. A motion was then made by Donna Tuck to this effect, seconded by Abraham Morelli.

Remaining in the room for Attorney Thompson's presentation were most of the HVCEO members and alternates already in attendance, also J. Chew. The annual statistical report was then distributed. Remarks were made by Attorney Thompson concerning bargaining strategies, this followed by questions and answers. Then on a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to end the executive session and then the meeting.