

MINUTES OF THE HVCEO

MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2000 AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL

NOON NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

This meeting began at 12:15 with members Gene Eriquez and Herb Rosenthal and Jon Chew of the staff in attendance. A memo requested from staff and dated 1/13/2000 regarding the geographic distribution of municipalities holding the HVCEO chairmanship was reviewed. It was decided that officers would be recommended based upon past strong participation and also this list.

After further discussion the two members agreed that the HVCEO chairmanship would be offered to Donna Tuck of Sherman, the Vice Chairmanship to Patty Gay of New Fairfield, with Secretary-Treasurer Herb Rosenthal of Newtown to remain in his current position.

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

ATTENDING 12:30 REGULAR MEETING

Bethel.....First Selectman Judy Novachek
Bridgewater.....First Selectman William Stuart, Chair
Brookfield.....First Selectman Martin Foncello
Danbury.....Mayor Gene Eriquez
New Fairfield.....First Selectman Patricia Gay
New Milford.....Mayor Arthur Peitler
Newtown.....First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Alternate Peter Yanity
Sherman.....First Selectman Donna Tuck

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Waller of Danbury, Rob Dean of the Redding Planning Commission, Kathryn Husband of CT DOT, Eric Bergstraesser and Richard Schreiner of HART, Fred Benedikt of Southbury, Ruth Malins of the Housatonic Valley Association, Larry Marsicano of the Candlewood Lake Authority, Marsha Gordon of MetroPool, Andy Merola of the CT Conference of Municipalities, Ruth Malins of the Housatonic Valley Association, Peg Daley of the Housatonic Valley Economic Development Partnership, 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 William Stuart at 12:35 P.M. There was no public comment offered at this session.

MINUTES FROM MEETINGS OF 11/19/1999 AND 12/10/1999

On a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the minutes of the HVCEO meetings of 11/19/1999 and 12/10/1999 were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRANSFERS FOR 11/1999 AND 12/1999

On a motion made by Gene Eriquez and seconded by Donna Tuck, the financial statements and transfers for 11/1999 and 12/1999 were unanimously approved.

HVCEO MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR FY2001

An agenda attachment was reviewed on this subject, including a staff recommendation that dues for FY2001 remain unchanged from FY2000. After a staff review of anticipated grant sources, on a motion made by Gene Eriquez and a second by Marty Foncello, the staff recommendation of no increase was unanimously approved.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2000

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Gene Eriquez and Herb Rosenthal, had meet briefly before the meeting. Herb Rosenthal reported that it was agreed that officers be recommended based upon past strong participation and also past geographic distribution of municipalities holding the HVCEO chairmanship. Donna Tuck of Sherman was then nominated for Chairman, Patty Gay of New Fairfield for Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer Herb Rosenthal of Newtown to remain in his current position.

Gene Eriquez then made a motion to elect the recommended slate. This motion was seconded by Herb Rosenthal and approved by the members unanimously.

AGGREGATION OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR ENERGY COST SAVINGS AFTER DEREGULATION

Chairman Stuart welcomed Andrew Merola, a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), who made a presentation on this topic. CCM is now seeking authorization from municipalities to examine their electrical usage data as the first step towards participating in the upcoming group purchase.

The total cost of electricity used by Connecticut's municipalities and their boards of education is about \$100 million annually. The amounts to be saved by the CCM group aggregation for bulk purchase will be known in two weeks, he said.

Mr. Merola stressed that the greatest savings in the future will be derived from better averaging of use over 24 hours by each account, rather than aggregation of accounts. Once experience is gained, CCM will study ways to serve as aggregator for individual residential households. A series of questions and answers followed, after which Mr. Merola was thanked for his informative visit.

UPDATED HVEDP BUSINESS RESOURCE DIRECTORY

HVEDP Director Peg Daley then made an Internet presentation of that group's updated Business Resource Directory. It was also reported that at the land use training session held on the evening of 1/18/2000, commission members from nine of the ten municipalities attended, including eleven from Bethel and seven from New Fairfield.

ALLOWING MODERATELY PRICED ACCESSORY APARTMENTS TO COUNT TOWARDS STATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING GOALS

Redding First Selectman Natalie Ketcham addressed this subject, the new Redding proposal also described in an agenda attachment. Rob Dean of the Redding Planning Commission also spoke to this issue. After discussion and a motion made by Herb Rosenthal, then a second by Marty Foncello, it was voted unanimously to amend the HVCEO legislative agenda to include this proposal and to so notify the Blue Ribbon Commission on Affordable Housing.

FUNDING MUNICIPAL REVIEWS OF COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS; THE BETHEL APPROACH

Deputy Director Dave Hannon addressed this topic, codified as Planning Bulletin 100 entitled "Funding Municipal Reviews of Complex Development Applications: The Bethel, CT Approach." He stated that during 1998 and 1999 HVCEO assisted the Town of Bethel with research on an administrative procedure to enable the Town to pass on to developers the cost of outside technical assistance required to review any especially complex development proposals.

The Bethel Zoning Regulations have now been amended accordingly. Planning Bulletin 100 describing the Bethel model will be made available to the other nine municipalities in the Region and will be mailed out shortly.

NEXT STEPS WITH FERC RELICENSING OF CANDLEWOOD, ZOAR, LILLINONAH AND BULLS BRIDGE HYDRO PROJECTS

New Fairfield First Selectman Patty Gay spoke to this issue, urging that the seven impacted municipalities coordinate together for increased influence in the upcoming FERC hearings.

She also requested that Attorneys Ted Backer and Dan Casagrande from the firm of Pinney, Payne in Danbury, who were of great assistance during the negotiations for the Candlewood Lake Conservation Restriction, again be engaged by the municipalities, this time as a group of seven rather than five, to research and advise during the FERC hearings.

After discussion of this point, the seven municipalities to be involved agreed to the concept of joint use of services from the firm of Pinney, Payne in Danbury. Staff was directed to request a draft scope of services from the firm for presentation at the March 17th meeting, that meeting also to be reserved exclusively for FERC relicensing issues. Patty Gay then left the meeting at this point.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ROAD IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Jon Chew addressed this issue. He explained that under the federal TEA-21 authorizing legislation, a category of funding known as "Surface Transportation Program-Other" was reserved for HVCEO and the hundreds of other regional councils in the United States.

He then reviewed past use of the program and suggested future applications for each community. The STP-O grant application forms, with a deadline back to HVCEO of 4/28/2000, had been mailed earlier to the seven qualifying municipalities with copies distributed at the meeting. Some questions and answers on this grant opportunity followed.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SECTION 16 VAN GRANT PROGRAM

Dave Hannon reported that as part of its annual planning services contract with the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District, HART had mailed out notices to area municipalities and non-profit social service organizations informing them of the availability of funding through this program. As only one proposal was received, HVCEO can submit it as the regional priority to CT DOT, he said.

The one application was from the City of Danbury's Department of Elderly Services. That Department currently operates a transportation service for seniors using two vehicles funded thru this van grant program.

Importantly for the efficiency of public investments, the Danbury vans are only made available when clients are unable to access the services of HART. Also, CT DOT in making

grant awards places priority upon replacement vehicles for well run programs, as this is, he said.

Then on a motion made by Art Peitler and a second by Herb Rosenthal, the application was unanimously approved for submission to CT DOT.

OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPROVAL PROCESS

Dave Hannon addressed this issue, explaining the role of HVCEO in the national process whereby regional councils have influence over federal transportation investments in their regional areas. The latest program of projects, known as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), had been received from CT DOT and would be ready for endorsement by HVCEO at the 2/18/2000 meeting. The issues in individual municipalities will be forwarded to members by memo before then, he said, also that legal notices had appeared in the News Times as required.

CONSENT DECREE FOR HOUSATONIC PCB CLEANUP

Ruth Malins of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) addressed this topic, requesting HVCEO to be a co-signer on a proposed HVA letter to U.S. EPA. The proposed letter offers qualified approval of the proposed Consent Decree, outlining the procedures by which the General Electric Corporation, the source of the PCB's emanating from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, would clean the Housatonic River. The Decree would start cleanup where it is most urgently needed.

But according to Ruth Malins there are some remaining issues as outlined in the proposed HVA letter; 1) the Consent Decree does not deal fully with the PCB's that have accumulated behind dams on the Housatonic other than to implement orders once further studies are conducted, 2) a more substantial monetary settlement for the Natural Resources Damages (NRD) component is justified, 3) NRD should be spent along the Housatonic River only, not along other rivers in Connecticut as proposed by CT DEP, and 4) the Restoration Plan Advisory Committee should be more broadly based.

After discussion, and on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and a second by Donna Tuck, it was voted unanimously to authorize the chairman to be a co-signed on the HVA letter. Ms. Malins was then thanked for her and HVA's leadership on this critical and long term environmental issue.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M.