

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**HVCEO**  
**MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2000**  
**AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

Bethel.....First Selectman Judy Novachek  
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown  
Brookfield.....First Selectman Martin Foncello, Alternate Lynn Beardsley  
Danbury.....Alternate Dennis Elpern  
New Milford.....Alternate Pat Maguire  
Newtown.....First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal, Secretary-Treasurer  
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham  
Ridgefield.....Alternate Selectman Peter Yanity  
Sherman.....First Selectman Donna Tuck, Chairman

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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 Chairman Donna Tuck at 12:35 P.M. There was no public comment offered at this session.

**APPROVAL OF HVCEO BUDGET FOR FY2001**

Jon Chew of the staff reviewed the draft budget for FY2001. Documents provided for each member at the meeting included the Transportation Work Program, minutes of the 4/14/2000 meeting of the Personnel Committee, and details as to the annual labor studies. A question and answer period followed.

The merits of the annual labor studies were then debated at some length. A motion was then made by Herb Rosenthal, seconded by Marty Foncello, to delete the labor study line item for FY2001. The vote was three in favor of the motion (H. Rosenthal, M. Foncello and R. Brown), one abstention (D. Elpern), with the remaining six members voting in favor.

Then on a motion made by Judy Novachek and a second by Herb Rosenthal, it was voted unanimously to approve the budget for FY2001 as presented.

**STILL RIVER-HOUSATONIC RIVER CANOE  
AND KAYAK "RIVER RUN" FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Peg Daley of HVEDP presented the River Run concept to the members. The goal is to develop a regional tourist attraction making use of scenic and underutilized waterways for canoe and kayak use.

While there had been discussion of this item at the 6/16/2000 meeting, as a quorum was then lacking the goal is to obtain a formal HVCEO endorsement of the project at this meeting, Peg said. A written outline of the planning process to be undertaken was distributed. These activities are to be primarily funded by the Housatonic Valley Tourism

Commission (HVTC) with the work contracted by HVTC to the Housatonic Valley Economic Development Partnership.

A discussion followed. Then on a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and seconded by Dennis Elpern, it was voted unanimously to endorse the study, the appropriateness of HVTC funding for this effort, and the use of HVCEO staff and resources for in kind services. It was agreed that Peg would provide HVCEO members with periodic progress reports on the River Run project.

#### **PROPOSED CHANGE TO ROUTE 7 EXPRESSWAY ALIGNMENT IN BROOKFIELD**

It was relayed by Marty Foncello that Conn DOT staff had informed Brookfield officials that the alignment for the extension of the Route 7 Expressway in Brookfield, which took so many years to broker, has been radically altered. It is now proposed that a significantly lesser mileage of Route 7 Expressway construction thru Brookfield be constructed.

The alignment agreement of 1996 has suddenly fallen apart. In spite of extensive and detailed environmental analysis leading to the original alignment agreement, wetlands impacts are now cited by Conn DOT as the cause for the change, he said.

In the following discussion it was noted that the long term goal of north-south integration of the economies of Fairfield and Litchfield Counties is to be further compromised by this proposed change. Also, that negative community impacts due to a less desirable alignment thru residential and commercial areas of Brookfield are to dramatically increase. Members noted that the cost of construction is also to be significantly reduced, allowing diversion of resources to other regions.

Staff noted that during the mid-nineties considerable cooperative planning led to the agreement by all parties as to a Route 7 Expressway alignment through Brookfield. The key policy was that a shortened Route 7 Expressway would terminate just south of the Brookfield-New Milford Town Line (also the Litchfield County-Fairfield County boundary), rather than proceed into New Milford as originally planned.

After further discussion, and then on a motion made by Natalie Ketcham and seconded by Judy Novachek, it was voted unanimously to reject Conn DOT's proposed alteration and lesser mileage of Route 7 Expressway construction in Brookfield.

It was then agreed that a letter from HVCEO to Governor Rowland would be sent requesting him to standby his commitment of two years ago to extend the Route 7 Expressway all the way to the Brookfield-New Milford Town Line.

Also, the Governor is to be requested to order a high level review by the CT Department of Environmental Protection to identify creative solutions to any remaining wetlands mitigation issues that are cited by Conn DOT as the barrier to the Route 7 Expressway reaching the New Milford Town Line.

#### **OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS**

There was no old or new business raised.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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