

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**H V C E O**  
**MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2003**  
**AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

Chairman Herbert Rosenthal of Newtown  
Vice Chairman Martin Foncello of Brookfield; Secretary-Treasurer Natalie Ketcham of Redding

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE**

Bethel.....First Selectman Judy Novachek  
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown  
Brookfield.....First Selectman Martin Foncello  
Danbury.....Mayor Mark Boughton  
New Fairfield.....First Selectman Peggy Katkocin  
New Milford.....Mayor Robert Gambino  
Newtown.....Herbert Rosenthal, Chairman  
Redding.....Absent  
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi and Alternate Peter Yanity  
Sherman.....Absent

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Harold Mayer and Larry Marsicano of the Candlewood Lake Authority, Lynn Waller of Danbury, Peg Daley of Newtown, Steve Bull of the Greater Danbury Chamber, Richard Schreiner of HART, Holly Burbank of Metropool, James Bellano of HVEDP, and Andrew Carrier, Candy Acquanita and Jonathan Chew of the HVCEO staff.

**CALL TO ORDER AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Herbert Rosenthal at 12:35 P.M. Public comment was offered by Peg Daley concerning upcoming work needed to maintain the Housatonic Valley River Trail, followed by discussion of that issue.

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 7/17/2003**

On a motion made by Bob Gambino and seconded by Judy Novachek, the minutes of the meeting of 7/17/2003 were unanimously approved.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 7/2003 AND 8/2003**

There was discussion of the staff's proposed transfers of OEM funds from HRRRA support staffing to consultant support staffing. Then on a motion made by Marty Foncello and seconded by Bob Gambino, the draft financial statements for 7/2003 and 8/2003 were unanimously approved as amended by the OEM transfer issue.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Andy Carrier reviewed an agenda attachment relating to a request for nine TIP amendments by Conn DOT, also the related resolution. Then on a motion made by Bob Gambino and seconded by Peggy Katkocin, the resolution and amendments were unanimously endorsed.

**ENDORSEMENT OF HART ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

Andy Carrier discussed the process by which planning regions that are part of the Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area jointly set priorities for use of Federal Transit Administration Enhancement funds. As our region's project, HART is proposing that bicycle racks be installed on all four buses that operate on the Danbury to Norwalk Route 7 LINK service, at a total cost of \$4,000. Then on a motion made by Judy Novachek and seconded by Bob Brown, this project was endorsed.

**UPDATE ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

HVEDP Director James Bellano provided an update on the upcoming Housatonic Valley Economic Development Partnership (HVEDP) move to the Danbury Chamber office. He then made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the past accomplishments and future direction of HVEDP.

Discussion then turned to the issue of Housatonic Valley Tourism Commission (HVTC) residual funds, now that regional boundaries for promotion of tourism are being realigned and HVTC is to be disbanded. Jon Chew reported that Cathy Brashich had called to discuss one option, which was to deposit remaining funds with HVCEO. There was considerable discussion of this issue.

Then on a motion made by Bob Brown, seconded by Marty Foncello, it was voted unanimously to authorize Herb Rosenthal as Chairman to contact HVTC Director Brashich to transmit the Council's request that the public interest would best be served if any residual public funds were placed with HVCEO, their future use acknowledging appropriate limitations, and decision as to usage providing full public scrutiny and input.

**FERC HYDRO PROJECT RELICENSING TESTIMONY:**

Comments were made by Jon Chew and Larry Marsicano of the CLA, as to the testimony submitted by each to FERC by the 9/17/2003 federal deadline for comment.

**MUNICIPAL TERRORISM RESPONSE PLANS:**

Andy Carrier reviewed the following items relating to terrorism response planning; A. Submission of municipal bioterrorism plans to the CT Department of Health, B. activities of Tectonic Engineering as HVCEO consultant for authoring local emergency management plan terrorism annexes, C. the CT Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy Program which is to be completed by each municipality by 10/31/2003, and D. a request for appointment of municipal representatives to a new Housatonic Emergency Planning Committee, which will be made by letter to each Council member.

**REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES:**

Traffic signal coordination plans for Backus Avenue in Danbury and Bridge Street in New Milford were reviewed, then the Route 35 Traffic Study for Ridgefield, then progress with the Norwalk to New Milford Conn DOT Rail Study, and then the upcoming federally required three year update of the HVCEO Regional Transportation Plan.

**OLD BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no old or new business.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a vote duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.