

**JANUARY 21, 2005 MINUTES
HVCEO MEETING**

HELD AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel.....First Selectman Alice Hutchinson
Bridgewater.....First Selectman William Stuart, Alternate Robert Brown
Brookfield..... First Selectman Jerry Murphy
Danbury.....Alternate Michael McLachlan
New Fairfield.....First Selectman Peggy Katkocin
New Milford.....Absent
Newtown.....First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham, Chairman
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Alternate Selectman Peter Yanity
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Waller of Danbury, CT Probate Court Administrator James Lawlor, Danbury City Engineer William Buckley, Danbury Development Director James Bellano, Danbury Hospital Government Relations Manager Andrea Rynn, Eugene Driscoll of the News Times, Executive Director Bobby Poole of the Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc. Also, Eric Hampton of the CT DECD, Danbury Emergency Director Paul Estafan, Ann Peters of Brookfield, the New Fairfield Judge of Probate Secretary, B. J. O'Brien of the Bethel Beacon, Tom Quigley and Jim Mellett of New Fairfield, Ann Risen of HART, Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew of the HVCEO staff.

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Natalie Ketcham 12:35 P.M.

MINUTES FROM 10/15/2004 AND 12/3/2004

On a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and seconded by Alice Hutchinson, the minutes of the meetings of 10/15/2004 and 12/3/2004 were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 10/2004, 11/2004 AND 12/2004

Then on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Peggy Katkocin, the financial statements for 10/2004, 11/2004 and 12/2004 were unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Dave Hannon spoke to this topic, describing the amendments that had been received from Conn DOT, with a request for HVCEO endorsement. After brief discussion and a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and a second by Alice Hutchinson, a resolution of approval for the amendments was passed unanimously.

CT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT AUTHORIZATION

Staff noted that this grant authorization was needed in order to continue with assisting area health directors in the preparation of a regional public health emergency response plan. After brief discussion and a motion made by Alice Hutchinson and a second by Peggy Katkocin, the authorization was unanimously approved.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PROBATE COURT SYSTEM

Remarks on this topic were made by James Lawlor, CT Probate Court Administrator. He distributed a report entitled "Plan Summary" and then spoke to it, describing the options for reducing the number of courts statewide and reducing their costs. There was considerable discussion of this topic, after which Mr. Lawlor was thanked for his presentation.

OVERVIEW OF THE DANBURY WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY AND REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY NEEDS

Remarks were made on this topic by City Engineer William J. Buckley, Jr., P.E. During the course of the presentation Mr. Buckley distributed three documents to the members, which were 1) Danbury's Upgraded and Expanded Water Pollution Control Plant, 2) a letter to the Lake Lillinonah Authority from the DEP division of Planning and Standards dated December 3, 2004, and 3) a statement by Danbury dated January 21, 2005 concerning nitrogen and phosphorus removal at the Danbury Water Pollution Control Plant. There was considerable discussion of this topic.

As for regional water supply needs, Mr. Buckley focused upon Candlewood Lake and cited the HVCEO web site summary on this topic. It was agreed that Jon Chew and Bill Buckley will formulate a proposal for a regional committee that would assist with development and distribution of regional water supplies, and that they will both serve as members. It was also agreed that Danbury resident Lynn Waller will be placed on the committee mailing list as an observer.

HOUSATONIC VALLEY CLASSIC BIKE RACE

Members discussed the confusion over the status of the race. It was noted that race organizer John Eustice has a "Sparta Cycling" web site that gives dates of May 15-22 for the "Tour of Connecticut", of which the Housatonic Classic is the end piece.

Jon Chew reported that John Eustice returned a call to him and stated he had not officially abandoned the bike race in our area for 2005, and will make that decision at the end of the month. He may save the Tour of Connecticut, he said, or a smaller version of it, of which our race was a subsection, in some way. A further option is to skip one year of the Housatonic Classic and return in 2006. Limitations are the need to raise the approximately \$150,000 to operate the project and to waive police overtime costs in some towns.

AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATIVE AGENDA ON CT AFFORDABLE HOUSING STATUTE

Bethel First Selectman Alice Hutchinson explained three proposed changes to the statute, contained on an agenda attachment.

These involve a) proper integration of the affordable units into the development, b) limitation of density of the proposed development to not more than one and one half times the number of units that would be permitted by the existing zoning district in which the property is located, and c) counting as affordable housing units that are part of the private market, not just those publically subsidized; units "actually available on the open market at prices for which persons and families pay thirty per cent or less of income, where such income is less than or equal to eighty percent of the median income."

Mrs. Hutchinson pointed out that Bethel has many private homes that are not considered affordable housing but are at or below the value of the units that are. There was a discussion of this issue. It was then agreed that the Bethel concerns would be added to others on the affordable housing statute that are already within the HVCEO Legislative Agenda.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE

Danbury Emergency Preparedness Director Paul Estefan addressed the Council concerning the proposed purchase of video conferencing equipment. He stated that state officials had still not given their approval for the regional system to proceed. He and Dave Hannon will continue their efforts to obtain the approval. Dave Hannon then distributed individual municipal copies of the final municipal "Field Guide for Municipal Emergency Operations." Copies will now be laminated and forwarded to local emergency officials.

WORK PROGRAM FOR THE HOUSATONIC VALLEY RIVER TRAIL

Jon Chew addressed this topic, noting that the River Trail thru Danbury, Brookfield, New Milford, Bridgewater and Newtown had been created by HVEDP and HVTD. However, that both of these organizations had become inactive, yet the River Trail is in need of continuing planning and maintenance. Examples of issues remaining were given.

Since the HVCEO's annual contribution to HVEDP was available for redirection, it was suggested that \$4,000 be reserved for engaging Peg Daley, former River Trail Coordinator, to again serve in this capacity, for the January to June 2005 period. An attachment to the agenda entitled "Work Program for the Manager of the of the Housatonic Valley River Trail" explained these issues.

Then on a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and a second by Jerry Murphy, it was voted unanimously to authorize staff to proceed with a consultant services contract with Peg Daley, based upon the work program as presented.

POLICY CONCERNING REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX

The discussion then turned to the December meeting with legislators, at which retaining the current level of the real estate conveyance tax was a point of debate. As a follow up, Jerry Murphy prepared comments to be inserted into an HVCEO letter to legislators, addressing the concerns they voiced at the December meeting.

The draft letter on this topic was reviewed and discussed, followed by approval for Chairman Ketcham to sign. Staff was then directed to forward the letter to the area's legislative delegation, and then also to all other municipal chief elected officials throughout the state.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2005 OFFICERS

Committee members Rudy Marconi and Alice Hutchinson gave their report, recommending that the officers for 2004 be renominated for 2005.

These are for Chairman, Natalie Ketcham of Redding, for Vice Chairman Rudy Marconi of Ridgefield, and for Secretary-Treasurer Peggy Katkocin of New Fairfield. After brief discussion and a motion made by Alice Hutchinson and a second by Andrea O'Connor, the proposed slate of officers for 2005 was unanimously approved.

CCM ENERGY PURCHASING PROGRAM

The discussion of this issue was raised by Jerry Murphy. Staff was requested to obtain more information on the program from CCM.

STATE FUNDING FOR OPEN SPACE AND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

This issue was raised by Natalie Ketcham, followed by discussion. A draft letter to Governor Rell on the matter was reviewed. As requested by Bill Stuart, it was agreed to make the agricultural lands preservation component of the letter the funding priority. This was followed by approval for Chairman Ketcham to sign the letter on behalf of the Council.

PROPOSED SALE OF ROUTE 7 EXPRESSWAY RIGHT OF WAY

The issue of proposed legislation requiring Conn DOT to sell these properties, located in Danbury, Ridgefield and Redding, was then discussed. So that the proposal can be more accurately assessed, staff was directed to provide maps of the expressway right of way for use by the three municipalities.

CT DEPT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Eric Hampton of the CT DECD spoke to the Governor's new emphasis upon assisting small businesses, noting the services available from his office.

NEW FAIRFIELD CENTER STREETScape PLAN

Peggy Katkocin expressed her appreciation that HVCEO will be able to update the Center Plan it originally prepared in 1998 to now reflect changing conditions, this technical work to be the base for decisions on the use of a new STEAP grant.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.