

**JULY 15, 2005 MINUTES
HVCEO MEETING**

HELD AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL

Chairman Natalie Ketcham of Redding

Vice Chairman Rudy Marconi of Ridgefield – Secretary-Treasurer Peggy Katkocin of New Fairfield

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel.....First Selectman Alice Hutchinson
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown
Brookfield.....First Selectman Jerry Murphy
Danbury.....Alternate Michael McLaughlin
New Fairfield.....First Selectman Peggy Katkocin
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy
Newtown.....Absent
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham, Chairman
Ridgefield.....Alternate Peter Yanity
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brookfield Public Works Director Ronald Klimas, Newtown Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Assistant Town Engineer David Bratz of Newtown, Bethel Highway Superintendent, Public Works Director Pat Hackett of New Milford, Public Works Director Peter Hill of Ridgefield, two representatives of the New Fairfield Public Works Department, New Milford Highway Foreman Wayne Roger, John Parker, John Rapp and John Oakes of Taconic Maintenance, Inc., David Flatau of Sherman, Candy Acquanita and Jonathan Chew of the HVCEO staff.

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Natalie Ketcham at 12:35 P.M. There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION OF MAGIC SALT

It was noted that this topic had been discussed at the May and June meetings, with agreement in June that a special meeting would be held on this topic in July. Chairman Ketcham then requested views by municipality as to use of Magic Salt and related vendor services. These were as follows:

Bethel: Alice Hutchinson stated that the approach will be to retrofit just one truck and use the product in a test area of the Town. She also noted that while use of the product is appealing it will take time for the public to get used to not seeing sand on local roads.

Bridgewater: Bob Brown stated that his Town is already the regional leader in use of the product and that such use will continue.

Brookfield: Jerry Murphy stated that the trial area will be on and near Candlewood Lake Road in the Candlewood Lake Watershed. If the experience is positive private communities in this area may purchase the treated salt from the Town or otherwise coordinate.

Danbury: Mike McLaughlin is assessing cost and feasibility for Danbury.

New Fairfield: Peggy Katkocin stated that New Fairfield is assessing cost and feasibility.

New Milford: Pat Murphy stated that a trial would be directed at the Downtown and selected hilly areas. She will then assess feedback from drivers. The Downtown is selected as blowing sand there is a nuisance to pedestrians and its elimination would be particularly useful.

Newtown: Fred Hurley stated that he is as yet not certain of the potential cost savings. However that he is much interested in the merits of the product.

Redding: Natalie Ketcham stated that Redding is interested in purchasing a limited quantity of approximately 200 tons for an initial trial season.

Ridgefield: Peter Yanity stated that the concept had been presented to the Board of Selectmen, and Peter Hill stated he has ideas for potential test areas involving about 13 miles of Town roads.

Sherman: Andrea O'Connor is interested in experimenting on one road near Candlewood Lake.

Magic Salt representative John Parker of Taconic Maintenance then made remarks. He stated that there will need to be training for the spray truck drivers to learn to use the product properly. Training for area crews can be done collectively at a cost for the training day of between \$1,500 and \$2,500.

He suggests that trial use areas should be the most difficult in the municipality, with steep slopes and shade. He stressed that while treated salt is more expensive on a ton per ton basis, you then use sufficiently less thus there is a savings. Keene, NH is documented as using one half less tonnage of salt after recently switching to Magic Salt treatment.

Also, in response to a question from Peter Hill, John Parker stated that Taconic Maintenance would be willing to provide a free trail by spraying 25 tons of treated salt one time in the Region, but that he could not offer this in more than one town.

In reviewing the Bridgewater costs summary that was distributed with the agenda package, Mr. Parker stated that Bridgewater had purchased all its own equipment to spray its own salt, a process that his company could provide to the towns. A comparative cost estimate is \$.80 per gallon for the product is you spray it yourself versus \$3.25 for Taconic Management to provide sprayed salt to you.

Also, that Bridgewater's costs may continue to fall somewhat as the town crew gains experience with spraying more efficiently. In addition Bridgewater's costs apparently do not include the avoided cost of spring sand cleanup.

Mr. Parker continued that NYS DOT had used the product for ten years and documented no additional harm to road surfaces, his spraying equipment can arrive on less than 24 hours notice and then spray 50 to 75 tons per hour, the company has enough staff to serve

all Housatonic Valley towns, that sprayed salt has a good shelf life unless it comes in contact with water or wet sand which activates the product, and local sander equipment lasts longer as Magic Salt is less corrosive than regular salt.

As for questions concerning coordinated purchasing, Mr. Parker referred towns to Mr. David Flatau who is the new regional dealer for Taconic Maintenance products and services. Mr. Flatau then explained that he was himself a user of Magic Salt for his commercial properties in New Milford. He is now also selling Magic Salt to Rumsey Hall in Washington. He then distributed a price list.

Mr. Parker noted that bulk purchasing from Mr. Flatau is possible if local storage is available. The contact information is David C. Flatau, Inc., P.O. Box 278, Sherman, CT, 06784, phone 860-355-4523, cell phone 860-488-4370, fax 860-350-6059, email dcflatau@aol.com.

Visitors from Taconic Management were then thanked for their attendance.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Alice Hutchinson distributed a flyer describing the weekend's events at the Town of Bethel's 150th birthday celebration and invited members to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P.M. Members then proceeded to Brookfield High School where then had a demonstration of pavement patching equipment by Patch Management, Inc. Informal notes from the presentation there are as follows:

— The contact is Tim Nicholas, Patch Management, Inc., 8841 Old Route #13, Morristown, Pennsylvania, 19067, phone 215-949-9400, toll free phone 1-877-FIX ROAD, fax 215-949-3166, cell phone 215-460-4795, email tim@potholekillers.com.

— Jerry Murphy viewed a group of four cooperating municipalities as the likely trial for a short term lease. There was discussion that training would take three days and that if municipalities could share staffing in this regard to reduce users then the training would be more effective. Emulsion materials would be kept in one location.

— A price estimate is \$10,000 per month for three months. There was discussion of other than equal shares, such that communities with fewer roads could use the equipment less and then pay less of a share, etc.

