

JANUARY 20, 2006 MINUTES
HVCEO MEETING
HELD AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL

Chairman Natalie Ketcham of Redding - Vice Chairman Rudy Marconi of Ridgefield

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel.....First Selectman Robert Burke, Alternate Paul Szatkowski
Bridgewater.....Absent
Brookfield.....First Selectman Jerry Murphy
Danbury.....Mayor Mark Boughton
New Fairfield.....First Selectman John Hodge
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy
Newtown.....First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham, Chairman
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Sanders, Ricardo Almeida, Kathryn Faraci, Cynthia Gollareny and Lisa Rivers of Conn DOT, Rick Schreiner and Ann Katis of HART, Walter Recher and Holly Burbank of Metropool, Donald Smith of Haestad Engineering, Danbury Public Works Director William Buckley, Danbury Superintendent of Public Utilities David Day, Thomas Quigley of the New Fairfield Wetlands Commission, Peter Yanity of Ridgefield, Mary Rose Duberek of CT DEMHS, Rocky Tomlinson of the Red Cross, Matthew Cassavechia of Danbury Hospital, Eric Hampton of CT DECD, New Milford Purchasing Facilitator Marilee Underwood, Harold Mayer and Larry Marsicano of the Candlewood Lake Authority, Candy 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 at 12:35 P.M. There was no public comment offered.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS FOR 11/18/2005 AND 12/2/2005

On a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Jerry Murphy, with an abstention on the December minutes by Andrea O'Connor, the minutes of the meetings of 11/18/2005 and 12/2/2005 were unanimously approved. Then on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Jerry Murphy, the financial statements for 11/2005 and 12/2005 were also unanimously approved.

INVITATION TO HOLD A FUTURE MEETING AT HART'S BUS FACILITY

Jon Chew conveyed the invitation from HART, to hold a meeting at their facility on Federal Road in Danbury. As HART is included in most municipal budgets it was thought to be of value for members to see the facility and to tour the garage, etc. Members then accepted the invitation and authorized staff to proceed to arrange the visit.

UPCOMING AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION

Kathryn Faraci of Conn DOT noted that there will be a need for the Council to meet in March to consider a resolution regarding air quality conformity of HVCEO's plans. Postponement of approval would delay federal transportation funds from arriving in Connecticut, she said. The Council agreed to include this item on its March meeting agenda.

PRIORITIES WITHIN 2006 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Chairman Ketcham noted that at the December legislative meeting, legislators had requested that the setting of priorities for HVCEO's eleven legislative items would be useful to them, with HVCEO agreeing to make such a selection at the January meeting. A summary sheet of current legislative agenda items was then reviewed.

There was then a discussion of the eleven legislative items. Four were selected to be the top priorities, in order; 1) stabilize the real estate conveyance tax, 2) avoid cuts to municipal aid and as part of this retain local probate courts, 3) evolve land use law towards smart growth, in part by modifying the sprawl inducing affordable housing appeals law, and 4) no disclosure of personal assets for local commissioners within ethics rules, as this will destroy volunteerism in local government.

Also in December, Representative Clark Chapin asked for a deliberation by HVCEO in January as to its willingness to support acquisition of Vaughn's Neck by eminent domain. On this question members decided to keep all options open in negotiating with Northeast Utilities, and not to favor one over the other now, especially as eminent domain is a challenge often contrary to a negotiating process.

NEW CT DOT ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSIT GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES

A presentation was then made by Michael Sanders and Lisa Rivers of Conn DOT on this topic. They noted that State funds are to be made available in each of a two year period for an expansion of elderly and disabled demand responsive transportation. The formula apportionment for FY2006, to be repeated in FY2007, provides funds as follows: Bethel \$18,828, Bridgewater \$9,623, Brookfield \$19,709, Danbury \$67,134, New Fairfield \$19,997, New Milford \$46,758, Newtown \$42,903, Redding \$21,069, Ridgefield \$32,240, Sherman \$14,692, and the total for Region \$292,953.

According to the legislation, which is Section 13b-38bb, "Municipalities shall apply to the state through a designated regional planning organization or transit district for funding allocations. The regional planning organization or transit district and municipalities interested in applying for the funds shall collaborate on service design to determine how to use the funding most effectively in that municipality and its surrounding region."

A discussion amongst the members followed. Mark Boughton suggested that municipalities receiving SweetHart service could logically request that HART be the applicant for them. Mike Sanders agreed that this would be an efficient arrangement, with Danbury, New Fairfield, Brookfield, Newtown, Bethel and Ridgefield in one application. It was noted that New Milford is at a distance from this core group and has its own internal trip patterns less connected to Danbury. And that the three most rural towns of Sherman, Bridgewater and Redding have elderly or disabled services oriented towards internal trips.

After further discussion, it was agreed that given the area's trip patterns, one application for the SweetHart towns and then one each from Sherman, New Milford, Bridgewater and Redding could meet the grants coordination guidelines. It was requested that Dave Hannon of HVCEO and Rick

Schreiner of HART take the lead on this issue. Conn DOT staff were then thanked for their visit.

UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN 2006

Dave Hannon reviewed the mutual aid agreement study for health departments involved in emergencies. Mark Boughton suggesting that the agreements relationship to collective bargaining be carefully reviewed. It was noted that police and fire departments in Redding and Ridgefield are signing mutual aid agreements with towns to the south.

Dave stated that assistance with local emergency operations plan updates was continuing, and that the contacts page on the small size emergency operations plan summaries for the local CEO are being updated. As for the long awaited answer from DEMHS as to its approval of using FY2004 federal grant funds for the proposed regional video conferencing system, he reported that DEMHS has not yet determined if this proposal will be compatible with their interoperability standards.

Rocky Tomlinson of the Red Cross then gave a report on Community Emergency Response Team training completed and planned, with a course in New Milford on going, Ridgefield to start soon, and Redding and Bethel expressing interest. Mary Rose Duberek of CT DEMHS then explained the sheltering role that the new DEMHS Area 5 will have in a statewide disaster scenario.

There was then discussion of the need for two appointees from the HVCEO area to the larger DEMHS Area 5 planning committee. Then on a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and a second by Rudy Marconi, it was voted unanimously to appoint Danbury Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Peter Siecienski and Newtown Emergency Management Director and Fire Marshal William Halstead as the HVCEO representatives.

WATER SUPPLY INTERCONNECTIONS TO DANBURY

Jon Chew started by providing a review of the process thus far, noting that in October of 2004 Danbury wrote to HVCEO outlining its plans for initiating the process for use of Candlewood Lake as a drinking water supply. Discussions at several meetings in early 2005 then led to the agreement that HVCEO would create a regional committee to interface with Danbury on the technical aspects of the water diversion issue.

Also, it was agreed that HVCEO would prepare a report on potential interconnections between surrounding towns and Danbury. The goal would be to determine if any towns are interested in receiving water from Danbury, and if so to then help Danbury fund the development of the new Candlewood supply and then share in the resulting water resource.

The interconnections report by Donald Smith of Haestad Engineering in Waterbury was then distributed and its findings summarized. Comments were made by John Hodge, noting that the option of water from Danbury to New Fairfield should be kept open, and by Herb Rosenthal, stating that the connection between Aquarion and United in Newtown should be noted in the report.

Danbury City Engineer Bill Buckley then reviewed the City's Candlewood Lake diversion plan. During the discussion that followed Pat Murphy stated that she is opposed to the pumping of Candlewood Lake for water supply purposes, voicing New Milford's concern over negative impacts to recreation on the Lake, including impacts during the time outside of the traditional summer season.

RECOMMENDATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2006 OFFICERS

The Nominating committee consisting of Natalie Ketcham, Herb Rosenthal and Jerry Murphy that

had been appointed at the October 21 meeting for this purpose then give its recommendation. The slate was Rudy Marconi for Chairman, Jerry Murphy for Vice Chairman, and Andrea O'Connor for Secretary - Treasurer. The on a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and seconded by Robert Burke, the recommended officers for 2006 were unanimously elected. Outgoing Chairman Natalie Ketcham was given expressions of thanks and then a round of applause for her fine work as HVCEO chairman over the past two years.

SHORTAGE OF SAND PURCHASED

John Hodge raised the issue of the shortage of bulk sand after purchase, such that it did not meet specifications. Other members then offered advice as to their procedures for checking quantities received from vendors.

REQUEST TO OPM FOR INFORMATION ON ROLE OF STATE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Rudy Marconi raised the issue of the implementation of the CT Conservation and Development Policies Plan, commenting that the state plan was having an impact upon economic development planning in Ridgefield at the Route 7 and 35 intersection area. He is seeking information as to how the Plan's categories are used by OPM, DPH, etc. to approve or reject sewer extensions. Pat Murphy related New Milford's recent experience on this issue also.

It was agreed that staff will invite OPM staff to the February HVCEO meeting to explain the Plan map for our area and to review the way in which it impacts sewer service development.

PROGRESS WITH GROUP PURCHASING

The history of this issue was related by Jon Chew, noting that in order to receive the benefits of group purchasing, in the summer of 2005 the six towns of Bethel, Brookfield, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown and Redding joined the fifty towns of the Capitol Region Purchasing Council, managed by the Hartford based Capitol Regional Council of Governments, which is the counterpart to HVCEO in the Capitol Area.

This action was based upon an HVCEO report of options for such group purchasing, including CRPC, SWRPA where bid preparation rotates between Stamford, Norwalk and towns, CT Department of Administrative Services when local needs and specifications are the same as the state, and bid piggyback upon public bids elsewhere.

As the fiscal year had already started during these discussions, in July of 2005 HVCEO funded for one time only the \$4,500 membership fee for the six, or \$750 each, with future dues to be billed to the individual towns.

Members then commented on their experiences to date. New Milford Purchasing Facilitator Marilee Underwood has found the time period to respond to bids too short. Herb Rosenthal for Newtown and Natalie Ketcham for Redding reported that their participation was going well.

It was agreed to request a CRPC representative to attend a future HVCEO meeting to review the progress of this region's participation, also how we might better involve local businesses in responding to the bids.

ADJOURNMENT

Then on a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.