

**MARCH 17, 2006 MINUTES  
HVCEO MEETING  
HELD AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

Chairman Rudy Marconi of Ridgefield  
Vice Chairman Jerry Murphy of Brookfield - Secretary-Treasurer Andrea O'Connor of Sherman

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE**

Bethel.....First Selectman Robert Burke  
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown  
Brookfield.....First Selectman Jerry Murphy  
Danbury.....Alternates Dennis Elpern and Michael McLachlan  
New Fairfield.....Alternate Ronald Oliveri  
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy  
Newtown.....First Selectman Herbert Rosenthal  
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham  
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman  
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Kathryn Faraci of Conn DOT, Ann Katis of HART, Redding Controller Larry Hutvanger, Jason Neuman of the Federal Highway Administration, New Milford Board of Finance Chairman George McLaughlin, Granby Board of Finance Chairman Michael Guarco, Hedy Ayers of the Capitol Region Purchasing Council, New Milford Purchasing Agent Marilee Underwood, Redding Controller Larry Hutvanger, David Fink of the Partnership for Strong Communities, Brookfield Civil Preparedness Director Wayne Gravius, Joan Crary, Eric Hampton of CT DECD, Michael Stanley of the Code Red Company, Larry Marsicano and Harold Mayer of the Candlewood Lake Authority, David Hannon, Candy Acquanita, George Blake and Jon Chew of the HVCEO staff.

**CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudy Marconi at 12:35 P.M. Jason Neuman of the CT FHWA introduced himself under public participation.

**MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

On a motion made by Bob Burke and seconded by Ron Oliveri, the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2006 were unanimously approved.

Concerning the financial statement for February, Andrea O'Connor and Jon Chew commented on a proposed transfer of \$5,000 from Line D4 "Water Supply interconnection Study" to Line D5 "Sherman Center Pedestrian Plan", this to facilitate the review of a roundabout traffic device for the Route 37 and 39 intersection in Sherman. After discussion and on a motion made by Jerry Murphy and seconded by Bob Burke, the February 2006 financial statement and proposed transfer were unanimously approved.

**CONFORMITY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANS WITH AIR  
QUALITY STANDARDS FOR FINE PARTICLES AND OZONE**

Two proposed resolutions on the subjects of ozone and fine particulates attached to the agenda were reviewed. Then after brief discussion and on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Bob Burke, the air quality conformity resolutions for fine particulates and ozone were unanimously approved.

**PROPOSED CONN DOT STUDY OF USER FEES FOR ROADS**

Members then reviewed a memo from Charles Barone of Conn DOT stating that that Department is to seek

Federal Highway Administration funding for a statewide study of roadway user tolls and fees. His memo seeks a letter of support for this action from HVCEO and each of Connecticut's 14 other regional planning organizations. J. Chew reported that the initiative was requested by the CT Transportation Strategy Board and legislators.

There was considerable discussion of this request. A majority of HVCEO members supported the study effort to allow all to see clearly the results and impacts of tolls, especially the prediction of induced side road congestion as may be the case of an I-84 toll barrier in the Greater Danbury Region. Others saw any endorsement as an inadvisable strategy that may ultimately induce unwanted parallel route congestion and this funded with new and essentially double taxation.

A motion to respond to Conn DOT with the majority view was then made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Bob Burke, seven members in favor with Dennis Elpern and Ron Oliveri opposed and with Natalie Ketcham abstaining.

#### **CONN DOT GRANT FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES**

The annual competitive grant process was explained by staff. An analysis by Rick Schreiner of HART recommended that the Town of Redding was the sole qualifying and deserving applicant. Then on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and a second by Bob Burke, this recommendation was unanimously approved for submission to Conn DOT.

#### **CONN DOT GRANT AUTHORIZATION FOR REMAINDER OF FY2006**

A proposed resolution on this subject attached to the agenda was reviewed, required as the Conn DOT grant was in two stages this fiscal year, and the name of the HVCEO chairman as the authorized contract signer had recently changed. Then on a motion made by Pat Murphy and a second by Jerry Murphy, the grant authorization was unanimously approved.

#### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

Dave Hannon reviewed a series of minor TIP amendments requested by Conn DOT. Then on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Bob Burke, the accompanying resolution of approval for the amendments was unanimously approved.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE CT MUNICIPAL CONSORTIUM FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Remarks on this topic were then made by New Milford Board of Finance Chairman George McLaughlin. He stated that the goal of the Consortium for Fiscal Responsibility is to advocate for state and federal legislative changes to permit Connecticut's municipalities to better live within their means. He noted the challenges include federal issues, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Act and No Child Left Behind Act that do not fully fund the mandated services required locally.

Also, that as years pass state funding for mandated programs falls far below the amounts promised when the mandates were imposed on the municipalities, he said. In addition, broad interpretations and archaic work rules raise municipal costs thru the Municipal Employees Retirement Act and Teacher Negotiation Act.

Ninety one municipalities have joined the Consortium to date. The nearby Northwest and Litchfield Hills regional councils have also endorsed the group's goals.

Some of the initiatives of the Consortium include extension of the state's privilege to the municipalities to modify or reject arbitrated settlements that cannot be supported from available revenues, modifications of the prevailing wage statute to reflect competitive costs, and the imposition of no new mandates until the existing ones are funded as promised. The Consortium will coordinate and intensify lobbying efforts on these fiscal issues, Mr. McLaughlin said.

There was then a discussion of the Consortium's goals, which were seen as closely related to those on the 2006 HVCEO Legislative Agenda. After discussion of wording the final motion made by Pat Murphy and seconded by Andrea O'Connor was to endorse the Consortium's goals as presented this date, all in favor with Dennis Elpern abstaining.

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON MUNICIPAL MEMBERSHIPS IN THE CAPITOL REGION PURCHASING COUNCIL**

Remarks by Hedy Ayers of the Capitol Region Purchasing Council were then made. She referenced a table showing bid participation during FY2006 to date for the six current participants; Brookfield, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding and Sherman. The data revealed that of the six, Brookfield, New Fairfield and Sherman had not participated, but that the three remaining towns had submitted requirements for inclusion on invitations to vendors to bid.

New Milford had been part of two bids, for snowplow blades and treated road salt, Newtown also two for treated road salt and gasoline, and Redding four bids for anti-freeze, snowplow blades, gasoline and portable toilets.

Mrs. Ayers explained that it is possible that other communities had exercised their right to "piggyback" off of the CRPC bid, even if required volumes and specifications were not submitted up front. In this process a CRPC member town can hold the winning vendor to a price even if its quantity was not listed in the initial solicitation to the vendor, she said.

Herb Rosenthal stated that Newtown had used the process for more than the two bids listed, such that the piggyback process must have been used in his case. Jerry Murphy said that his staff finds the CRPC process a useful check on locally generated prices, and this form of use is worthwhile. Redding Controller Larry Hutvanger stated that the use of the program for price check was also common in Redding.

New Milford Purchasing Agent Marilee Underwood stated that there was some initial confusion about the program as to the ability to "piggyback" and use vendors without including town specifications in the bid document up front. Andrea O'Connor stated that Sherman found it was too small to consider making further use of the program.

Concerning adding local vendors to the CRPC mailing lists, a point raised by Pat Murphy, if names are supplied this can easily be accomplished, Mrs. Ayers said. After further comment and discussion it was agreed that Mrs. Ayers would hold a workshop here in the area for interested purchasing staff to provide guidance to them as to how to make the best use of the program. Jon Chew is to set up this training session. Mrs. Ayers was then thanked for her visit to HVCEO.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE BY THE CT PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES**

Comments on the topic of affordable housing were then made by Partnership Policy Director David Fink. His group is attempting to prepare an affordable housing plan for Connecticut, for consideration by the legislature, he said. The group needs to know what monetary or other incentives would be most useful in countering the negative fiscal effects of affordable housing.

These are such as the state assuming induced infrastructure and education costs if a town accepts affordable housing units. A handout was distributed describing the Massachusetts reimbursement program in this regard. The Connecticut planning group does not wish to propose a mix of incentives relevant to this state without first checking with local officials, and that dialogue was the purpose of today's visit, he said.

There was then discussion of the incentive idea by members. The difficulty of the state making long term financial commitments to towns, as proposed in this model, was cited by many members. Ron Oliveri noted that with New Fairfield serving as a bedroom community for jobs in New York State, affordable housing there

would largely assist New York and miss the Connecticut problem, also that housing for seniors in New Fairfield is the key, not for workers. Pat Murphy cited the poor aesthetics of new affordable housing in New Milford as a major barrier to further public acceptance.

Natalie Ketcham cited the lack of legislative support for reasonably available credit under the zoning override law for affordable accessory apartment units, which could be a viable strategy in rural areas such as Redding. Dennis Elpern described the advantages of allowing communities to select affordable housing locations rather than private developers as is the case now. After further discussion, Mr. Fink was thanked for his presentation.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT UPDATES BY MUNICIPALITY**

Dave Hannon distributed the ten municipal traffic project status reports to the members, updated to March of 2006 from November of 2004. The goal of these reports is to provide an informational update for municipal managers, he said. Also, to determine if there are questions as to any projects that Council staff could assist with, or if municipal views on traffic needs had changed.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF NEW AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY FROM CONN DOT**

Jon Chew displayed a new aerial photo of the WCSU and Danbury Hospital area in Danbury, then demonstrating its relevance to the HVCEO traffic study now being conducted there. It was then explained how this set of photos can be utilized for other purposes and George Blake distributed individual municipal samples of the new 3/2004 aerial photography. Members are urged to call the staff when they need a particular photo for use in an economic development, conservation, or other meeting.

A discussion of aerial photos used by municipalities then followed. Staff will assess opportunities for joint flights for taking aerials.

#### **DISCUSSION OF FERC REQUIRED SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Andrea O'Connor raised this topic. She cited the recent meeting in New Fairfield with chief elected officials and General Assembly members oriented towards Candlewood Lake, suggesting that another meeting is needed to give high level attention to the inadequacies remaining in the draft shoreline management plan.

Her summation of issues remaining included such points as litigation expenses for disputes over rights placed into the fee base for all to pay rather than to Northeast Generation Services or the next Lake owner, lack of guidelines for applying grandfathering equitably, encumbrances from a seller to a new owner as to upcoming responsibilities will be vague and unwritten as the time of property transfer, lack of formalization of funding to CLA for work it conducts that would otherwise fall to Northeast Generation Services, lack of transparency in the fee structure, and other issues.

It was agreed that leaders from Candlewood Lake communities would meet again on these and related issues and that Andrea O'Connor will organize the meeting.

#### **DEMONSTRATION OF MASS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

Chairman Marconi stated that members were welcome to remain in the room after the close of the meeting to receive information on a reverse 911 emergency notification system, to be introduced by Brookfield Director of Civil Preparedness Wayne Gravius and followed by a demonstration of the system by Michael Stanley of the CodeRED Company. Herb Rosenthal stated that Newtown had just decided to purchase the CodeRED system.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Then on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Herb Rosenthal, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 P.M.