

**MAY 19, 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.....Absent
Bridgewater.....First Selectman William Stuart
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
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman
Sherman.....Absent

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

State Representative David Scribner of Brookfield, Dr. Georgina Scholl and Patricia Sesto of the Fairfield County Municipal Deer Management Alliance, Dr. Thomas Draper and Donna Culbert of the Newtown Health Department, Frank Acquanita of Danbury, Kathryn Faraci of Conn DOT, Ranna Lanagan of Growth Options for the 21st Century, Major James Purcell of the Brookfield Police Department, Bradley Keazer and Jason Newman of the CT FHWA staff, six citizens, 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. Under public comment, Brad Keazer of FHWA made remarks concerning the services of the CT office of the Federal Highway Administration. Candy Acquanita then alerted members to a newspaper error concerning the data of Saturday's household hazardous waste collection event.

RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Chairman Rudy Marconi then presented a plaque of recognition to Candy Acquanita, honoring her 25 years of service to the Council. She then received a bouquet of roses from the staff, followed by a flowering plant from Kathryn Faraci of Conn DOT, then thanks from all for maintaining the HVCEO office with efficiency and good cheer for 25 years.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On a motion made by Patricia Murphy and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2006 were unanimously approved. Concerning the financial statement for April, on a motion made by William Stuart and seconded by Patricia Murphy it was also unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Dave Hannon reviewed the latest Transportation Improvement Program amendments requested by Conn DOT. These included an improvement to the intersection of Routes 58 and 302 in Bethel, major improvements to the intersection of Route 53 in Danbury at Triangle Street and Coal Pit Hill Road, and a technical amendment concerning traffic signal installations in CT DOT District 4. Then on a motion made by William Stuart and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the TIP amendments and accompanying resolution were unanimously approved.

PREVENTION OF LYME DISEASE THRU DEER REDUCTION

Dr. Georgina Scholl then gave a PowerPoint presentation on this topic. Dr. Scholl is Redding's representative to and Vice Chair of the Fairfield County Municipal Deer Management Alliance. Some basic parameters from her presentation were that excess deer destroy vegetation, carry tick borne Lyme Disease, and cause motor vehicle accidents.

Dr. Scholl noted that the prevalence of Lyme Disease correlates with the percentage of wooded landscape, as seen in Lyme Disease rates per 100,000 population in 2002, with urban Danbury at one end of the scale with about 130 cases per 100,000, and rural Sherman at the other end with about 790. There is good evidence that reducing the number of deer reduces Lyme Disease, she said. Given current estimates of 60 to 100 deer per square mile in our area, a reduction to 8 to 12 per square mile would produce a situation in which accompanying deer ticks cannot successfully breed.

Contraception has not worked. Relocation moves the problem elsewhere. Allowing the deer to eat until they run out of food will destroy the woodlands. Therefore, controlled hunts are the only remaining option, she emphasized. Eradication of Lyme Disease is thus a real possibility.

Literature supporting the PowerPoint presentation was distributed and there was discussion periodically during the presentation. It was noted that the organization's web site is www.deeralliance.com. Dr. Scholl was then thanked for her informative presentation.

DEMONSTRATION OF PORTABLE VEHICULAR SPEED MONITORING DEVICE

Jerry Murphy introduced Major James Purcell of the Brookfield Police Department, who provided a demonstration of one of the new lightweight battery powered speed monitoring devices now in use in Brookfield. The devices can also count traffic and record speeds.

The posted speed limit can be displayed along side the digital display. These devices are easily moved and a traffic enforcement officer can be posted out of sight just downstream, causing apprehension on the part of speeding drivers when they come upon one of these new devices. The price is about \$3,500 each, with the Brookfield units purchased via a state grant from a vendor in the area. The mounting pole cost is about \$70 per site and the units are not easily vandalized.

UPCOMING 2006-2008 PUBLICATIONS BY HVCEO

Jon Chew reviewed the upcoming program of work, including estimated completion dates for various planning bulletins.

ADOPTION OF FY2007 BUDGET

Jon Chew then presented the proposed budget for FY2007 which had been mailed our earlier

for review by members. On a motion made by Natalie Ketcham and seconded by Herb Rosenthal, the proposed budget was unanimously approved.

RAIL FREIGHT ALTERNATIVES

Ranna Lanagan of the group Growth Options for the 21st Century (Go21) was then introduced. She explained that her group is a non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to finding solutions to our nation's increasing freight transportation needs. Freight shipping is to grow 67% over twenty years, with the current modal share for highways of 78%, rails at 16% and waterways at 6%. The organization's goal is to assist the rail freight percentage to rise from the current 16% to 17% of the increasing total, she said.

The organization's web site is www.go21.org. Its plan is to create a network of area elected officials to be alerted when lobbying assistance is needed to promote public investments in rail freight infrastructure. It was noted that Jerry Murphy and Representatives Hank Bielawa and Toni Boucher from our area have already endorsed the group.

She then invited HVCEO and /or its members to join by endorsing the statement of principles. A discussion followed. Members agreed to consider endorsing the group's statement of principles at the upcoming June 16th HVCEO meeting.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jerry Murphy noted that progress was being made with the revision of NGS's Shoreline Management plan for Candlewood Lake to make it more acceptable to municipalities and the public.

UPDATE ON INITIATING THE I-84 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

J. Chew reported that as three months had passed since the February visit by Conn DOT staff on the upcoming EIS, he obtained an update from Conn DOT project manager Keith Hall. This indicates that progress is being made and that the completed study scope of services may be ready in July, followed by receipt of a person-hour proposal from study consultant Close, Jensen & Miller and negotiation of a fee thereafter.

CL&P UTILITY POLE ISSUES

Members views were summarized concerning the policy of CL&P towards the removal of older utility poles after their replacement by new ones. It was noted that in many cases the older poles remain in place without carrying any wires and thus without a function, this to the visual detriment of the community. In many cases these unused poles have been cut in half and belted together, leaving a further undesirable look.

Jon Chew had been directed to write to NU with this concern, and the response received on May 11 was attached to the agenda. Key points in the response were that 1) all municipalities in the region were requested to provide CL&P with a list by 12/31/2004 of their priority bare double poles for removal but only New Milford responded and their 18 priority poles were quickly removed; 2) 1,093 additional double poles in our region have since been removed; 3) priority double poles can still be removed by calling Mr. John Burns, CL&P Director, Division Operations, at 203-270-5800.

Bridgewater First Selectman Bill Stuart then distributed his written rebuttal statement on this matter, urging that CL&P proceed to remove all rather than only some of the problematic double poles, as all are unsightly obstructions in town rights of way. He emphasized that this is not a new problem, but a very old one, still unresolved.

He did not view it as reasonable that the municipality should be required to use its resources to create a priority list to forward to CL&P as to removal. As according to CL&P 1,093 poles from the nine of our ten towns without priority lists were removed by CL&P between 9/29/2004 and 4/20/2006 in any case, it is implied that the Company maintains its own internal priority removal list. What was the Company's criteria for removal of the 1,093 poles?

Also, that CL&P should take the time for consultation with municipal representatives prior to the placement of new utility poles. This is a maintenance and public safety issue, as both traffic safety and the ability to undertake municipal drainage improvements can be negatively affected.

A discussion followed. One option would be to order local assessors to bill CL&P for the second pole as an incentive for removal. Jon Chew was directed to write back to CL&P to determine if additional management alternatives regarding the poles are possible, his letter to be distributed as a draft via email for comment before it is sent.

**UPDATE ON REGIONAL EMERGENCY
VIDEO CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

Dave Hannon reported that final approval from CT DEMHS had been received to proceed with the development of the regional emergency video conference system. As the next step he distributed a draft letter to be placed on municipal letterheads, from each municipal leader to DEMHS, requesting that agency to proceed with the regional equipment purchase and then deliver all items to Danbury for further distribution. Dave will then collect the letters as DEMHS wishes to receive them as a group.

He also distributed as a summary sheet the most recent specifications and pricing of system components. The total regional cost of \$82,714 is to be committed from each municipality's Homeland Security Grant Program funds in the amounts as follows: Bethel \$4,020, Bridgewater \$1,289, Brookfield \$3,659, Danbury \$50,606, New Fairfield \$3,350, New Milford \$5,566, Newtown \$5,257, Redding \$2,370, Ridgefield \$4,999 and Sherman, \$1,598.

There was then a discussion of the process to date. It was agreed that Danbury, as the original proponent of this cooperative system, had followed up by consistently providing the leadership and staffing necessary to move it forward.

Also, that the City had been generous in increasing its share of regional funding to enable the other towns to remain within their comparatively smaller Homeland Security grant allocations. It was agreed by all that Chairman Marconi would express this appreciation in the form of a letter to Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton.

ADJOURNMENT

Then on a motion made duly made and seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 P.M.