

**OCTOBER 20, 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.....Absent
Brookfield.....First Selectman Jerry Murphy
Danbury..... Alternate Chief of Staff Michael McLachlan
New Fairfield.....Alternate Selectman 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

State Representative David Scribner of Brookfield, News Times Editor Eric Conrad, News Times Transportation Reporter Mark Langlois, Deborah Howes of Planimetrics LLC, Housatonic Valley River Trail Manager Peg Daley, Eric Hampton of DECD, Ann Katis and Richard Schreiner of HART, Roy Piper of DEMHS Region 5, Bethel Public Works Director Andrew Morosky, and from the HVCEO staff George Blake, David Hannon, Candy Acquanita and Jon Chew.

CALL TO ORDER/ PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudy Marconi at 12:30 P.M. There were no citizens offering public comment.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On a motion made by Pat Murphy and seconded by Herb Rosenthal, the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2006 were unanimously approved, except for abstentions by Natalie Ketcham and Andrea O'Connor who were not in attendance that date. Concerning the financial statement for September 2006, on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Natalie Ketcham it was unanimously approved.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR FY2008

Jon Chew reviewed an agenda attachment outlining past dues increases and the status of current ongoing grants. In that a temporary subsidy to HRRRA is now to be reduced, that source can fund cost of living increases for FY2008, thus avoiding a dues increase, he said.

Then on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, it was voted unanimously to set membership dues for FY2008 at the same level as FY2007. Rudy Marconi noted for the record his view that the membership dues for Ridgefield at \$19,104 should not be higher than those for Newtown at \$17,123.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Dave Hannon reviewed the latest Transportation Improvement Program amendments requested

by Conn DOT. These included among other things improvements to the intersection of Routes 302 and 58 in Bethel, construction of the Still River Greenway Trail in Brookfield, Route 7 improvements in New Milford, Edmond Road relocation in Newtown, Route 6 widening in Danbury, and various Conn DOT statewide maintenance items.

There were questions raised by Ron Oliveri, Mike McLachlan and Rudy Marconi, followed by discussion. Then on a motion made by Herb Rosenthal and seconded by Jerry Murphy, the resolution of approval for TIP amendments was unanimously approved.

NEW HYDROPOWER PROJECTS OWNERS ENERGY CAPITAL PARTNERS' NE ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY

There was discussion of the planned visit today of representatives of NE Energy and its postponement. Jon Chew stated that Bob Gates of Northeast Generation Company called to express apologies and that the new company would hold a meeting and invite HVCEO members to it in about three weeks.

Herb Rosenthal noted that Attorney General Richard Blumenthal had intended to attend today's meeting to participate in this agenda item, and is planning to remain involved to assist area municipalities.

THE BROOKFIELD VILLAGE PLAN

Jerry Murphy introduced this topic, noting that Brookfield lacks a municipal "center of gravity" but that one is now being created in the Routes 7 and 25 intersection area. He reviewed critical water and sewer services there and the importance of completing the Brookfield Route 7 Bypass, and noted the importance of having residences in close proximity to enliven the area and add economic viability to its planned businesses.

He then introduced Deborah Howes of Planimetrics, LLC, the planning consulting firm undertaking the Brookfield Village work. She reviewed the process to date, grants received, and the structure of municipal oversight for the planning process. Pedestrians will be moved to the top of the transportation hierarchy for this area, parking will be shared, and a mix of uses is critical, she said.

A video was then shown that took viewers thru an animated simulation of the Brookfield Village as it will look in the future. This was followed by a question and answer period and discussion as to experiences in other area towns with similar parking issues and zoning controls to maintain plan elements.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Jon Chew distributed draft lists of municipal transportation needs, these to be included in the upcoming 2007 plan update. He noted that more than half of HVCEO staff activity involves federally funded regional transportation planning. This year, the staff must update the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan in order for area municipalities to be eligible to continue to receive federal roadway and transit improvement funds.

The next Transportation Plan update must be adopted by the board and forwarded to Conn DOT in April of 2007. The drafts distributed this date need municipal review as they will soon be printed and distributed for public input as part of citizen participation requirements. Members discussed the process, and requested an email reminder before the review deadline of Monday, November 13.

UPCOMING GE PCB SPILL REMEDIATION GRANTS FOR PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Jon Chew reviewed a package of grant materials mailed earlier and a second copy distributed today. He noted that about \$9 million is available from the Pittsfield, Mass. GE PCB damage remediation fund. Housatonic River features injured for which the grants are to compensate include riverbed sediments, wildlife, surface water, fishing, water based recreation and other river based recreation.

As shown in the materials distributed the federally defined proposal rating process includes a detailed point scoring system. While remediation projects do not need to be on the Housatonic River itself and can be anywhere in the watershed, scoring criteria do not favor Naugatuck Valley projects.

The scoring criteria appear to slightly favor water quality and wildlife projects over recreation, but both should be submitted he said. The good news is that a simple pre-application is what is needed by mid-January, not a full application, so there is little investment in up front time. DEP has hired the firm of Malcome Pirnie in association with Milone and MacBroom to review proposals, he said.

There was then a discussion of the list of potential projects suggested at a networking meeting held May 18 to compare ideas. Pat Murphy noted that she does not support the idea of removing the Bleachery Dam as suggested by the Lake Lillinonah Authority, as this would reduce the depth of water available to be pumped up to Candlewood Lake and require extensive remediation of the current shoreline near Downtown New Milford.

Instead, a linear rubber dam that can be raised and lowered to control nearby Route 7 flooding should be considered for installation above the present dam, an improvement used successfully on the Farmington River.

Mike McLachlan suggested possible future HVCEO policy input to this process, if needed. Members were urged to send representatives to a public workshop for this grant source, to be held on Tuesday November 28 at 7 PM in Kent Town Hall.

DRAFT 2007 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

There was then a review of the draft legislative agenda for the upcoming 12/1/2006 annual breakfast meeting with legislators. Discussion led to changes being made to the current draft. Herb Rosenthal, President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), agreed to check with CCM as to its priorities to possibly add to the HVCEO list, and Natalie Ketcham will do the same with the Council of Small Towns.

It was agreed that a revised draft legislative agenda will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming November 17, 2006 meeting.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

HVCEO Deputy Director Dave Hannon and Roy Piper, CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Area 5 Director, provided the following updates:

FY2006 Homeland Security Grant Program: Municipalities have been provided with a Grant Application Kit for the FY2006 Homeland Security Grant Program. This application needs to be completed and returned to DEMHS, along with a signed memorandum of understanding and authorizing resolution. Contact Richard Zaccagnino at DEMHS for additional information (860)256-0914 or richard.zaccagnino@po.state.ct.us.

DEMHS High Band Radio Communications Directive: DEMHS has issued a directive that all municipal emergency operations centers must be equipped with a high band radio base

station approved by DEMHS. If a municipality does not currently have a high band radio in its emergency operations center it must include the acquisition of such in its application for FY-2006 Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

If a municipality finds that there is insufficient funding in this grant program for the acquisition of the radio equipment and setup, the municipality may utilize left-over funds from its FY2005 Homeland Security Grant.

If there is still insufficient funding for this purpose, DEMHS will make up the documented difference to facilitate the purchase and installation of the required high band radio base station. The contact is Doug Glowacki at DEMHS for additional information at (860) 256-0917 or Douglas.glowacki@po.state.ct.us.

They also noted that municipalities that have a high band radio base station in place in their emergency operations center must have an FCC license to operate the radio and must also apply to DEMHS and receive authorization from the Commissioner of DEMHS to operate the radio on the assigned regional frequency. Information on these requirements is contained in the Grant Application Kit for the FY2006 Homeland Security Grant Program.

Public Information Officer Training: DEMHS is sponsoring a one day training session for individuals designated as the municipal public information officer in their local emergency operations plan. The course emphasis is on the basic skills and knowledge needed for emergency management public information activities. This course will be held on December 11, 2006 at the Southbury Training School. For additional information, contact Tony Paquette at (860) 567-6850 or Anthony.Paquette@po.state.ct.us.

NOAA Public Alert Radios in Public Schools: Roy Piper of DEMHS provided information on the Federal program to distribute NOAA public alert radios to public schools in every municipality. For more information on this program, contact Roy Piper at (860) 567-6850.

HVCEO Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement: Dave Hannon distributed copies of the Regional Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement for the Housatonic Valley Region, signed by all ten of HVCEO's chief elected officials.

APPEAL OF CANDLEWOOD LAKE SHORELINE ZONING OVERRIDE

Regarding the issue in New Milford where zoning was recently preempted by FERC via the Federal Power Act, Jon Chew noted that he had received a verbal report from Attorney Ted Backer, who has been engaged by HVCEO to support New Milford's appeal.

Attorney Backer reported that, working in conjunction with New Milford Attorney Randy Di Bella whose brief will be submitted by 11/17/2006, he will proceed to request permission from the appellate court to submit a friend of the court amicus brief. This is the least cost option for HVCEO, he noted, making sure a submission will be accepted before the time is taken to actually write it.

A draft of his brief will be forwarded to all parties prior to its submission. Attorney Backer also noted that regarding the two cases cited by the Litchfield Superior Court judge in support of federal preemption, a law school article has been found that dissects and challenges the logic of these cases.

ADJOURNMENT

Then on a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:10 P.M.