

**MINUTES OF THE 1/18/2008  
HVCEO MEETING  
HELD AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE**

Bethel.....Alternate Selectman Paul Szatkowski  
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown  
Brookfield.....First Selectman Robert Silvaggi  
Danbury.....Mayor Mark Boughton  
New Fairfield.....First Selectman John Hodge  
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy  
Newtown.....First Selectman Joseph Borst  
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham  
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chair  
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

HVCASA Director Allison Fulton, Candlewood Lake Authority Director Larry Marsicano, Dr. Gregory Dworkin of Danbury Hospital, Richard Walsh and Chris Swan of CL&P, Redding Health Officer Doug Hartline, Newtown Health Director Donna Culbert, New Milford Economic Development Supervisor Vincent Nolan, Mary Bevan of Grant Solutions, Newtown Selectman Herb Rosenthal, Eric Hampton of DECD, Judy Blanchard of the Newtown Drug Free School Committee, Danbury Health Director Scott Leroy, Bethel Health Director Laura Vasile, Lynn Waller of Danbury, Linda Berger of the Sherman Wetlands Commission, Dirk Perrefort of the News Times, and from the HVCEO staff Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew.

**CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudy Marconi at 12:35 PM, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. New members Bob Silvaggi representing Brookfield and Joe Borst representing Newtown were welcomed.

Public comment was then offered by Linda Berger of the Sherman Wetlands Commission regarding the growing problem of plastic BBs being deposited on open space lands after the game of Airsoft, which is similar to paintball but uses BB guns and plastic BBs. Some local commissions are asking their state representatives to ban the non-biodegradable forms of plastic BBs. Background on this problem is to be forwarded from Sherman to Council staff for email distribution.

**MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

On a motion made by Pat Murphy and seconded by Natalie Ketcham the minutes of the meetings of 11/16/2007 and 12/7/2007 were unanimously approved, with an abstention by Rudy Marconi on the 12/7 minutes as he was not in attendance. Then concerning the financial statements for 11/2007 and 12/2007, after brief discussion and on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and a second by Pat Murphy, the two statements were unanimously approved.

**CONN DOT RELATED RESOLUTIONS**

Staff reviewed the initial two resolutions, the first authorizing the execution of the CT DOT grant for the second half of the current fiscal year, and the second resolution to confirm for Conn DOT HVCEO's adherence to state antidiscrimination statutes. After brief discussion and on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Paul Szatkowski, the two resolutions were unanimously approved.

Staff then commented upon a third proposed resolution. This would commit the Council to a federal standard for projecting transportation project costs with inflation factors during the planning process. On a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Joe Borst this federally required resolution was unanimously approved.

#### **MOU FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN THE NY METRO AREA**

Jon Chew explained that the Federal Highway Administration is requesting closer cooperation between federally funded regional planning groups in the New York Metropolitan Area. This is in the form of an interagency memorandum of understanding committing HVCEO staff to sharing key documents with planning counterparts in New York and New Jersey and meeting with them as a group once per year.

The arrangement is viewed as workable by HVCEO staff, and in the interest of good planning and project development for the Housatonic Valley Region. After brief discussion and on a motion made by Natalie Ketcham and seconded by John Hodge, the memorandum of understanding was unanimously approved.

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

Dave Hannon reviewed capital program scheduling changes to the TIP as requested by Conn DOT. The highlight on the list was a new project now to enter the project development phase, the intersection of Main Street and Route 37 in Danbury. Then on a motion made by Paul Szatkowski and seconded by Mark Boughton, the TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

#### **UPDATE ON OPPOSITION TO FAA AIRSPACE REDESIGN**

Rudy Marconi reported on this topic, noting that a meeting of the member towns of the Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning is scheduled for February 1, with other towns not yet members to be invited. Mark Boughton stated that Danbury is reconsidering its membership, citing concerns over the intermunicipal funding mechanism, hourly rates for attorneys that are extremely high, and contingency fees being included in membership fees when they should be voted on as needed. Rudy Marconi stated he will be working to address these concerns.

#### **UPCOMING ACTIVITY BY THE HOUSATONIC VALLEY COALITION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

HVCASA Director Allison Fulton provided an activities report, accompanied by board member Judy Blanchard of the Newtown Drug Free School Committee. Their request was for municipal leaders to please support and work with their HVCASA Local Prevention Councils and HVCASA Drug Free School Committees. A review of the group's annual report to the state as to priority needs in the region will cite critical deficiencies such as the need for more detox facilities, adolescent support, etc. A list of the municipal chairs of these groups was then distributed, along with other background material.

#### **NEW CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY SHORELINE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

A PowerPoint presentation by CLA Director Larry Marsicano was then made, demonstrating how multiple data sources have been integrated into a geographic information system. The purpose is to enhance shoreline protection and municipal regulatory response to violations of local land use codes.

#### **AREAWIDE PLANNING FOR PANDEMIC FLU RESPONSE**

A PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Gregory Dworkin of Danbury Hospital on regional planning for pandemic flu response was next. Dr. Dworkin is working within a national planning framework to build capacity for millions of vaccinations to be quickly prepared, once the particulars of the next and unique pandemic flu are known. Also active is coordination of homeland security and health planning interests, nationally and locally.

The probability of a massive and severe flu hitting the Greater Danbury Area is 100%, and is expected every 30 to 40 years, notable outbreaks being 1918 and 1957, with new influenza strains usually arriving from abroad, he said.

The next outbreak will last from three months to a year and will cover the USA and the world, so there will be no reserve medical capacity in adjacent areas. It is estimated that 20% of the municipal population will be sick and with caregivers remaining home, this will appear as a 30% decrease in the daily labor force, a massive disruption. Furthermore, local first responders are to be at great risk.

The planning goal will be home treatment so that hospitals are not overwhelmed. As all area schools will be closed for at least three months to prevent the spread of germs, school administrators need to be part of the current pandemic flu planning.

Dr. Dworkin noted that modern medicine cannot prevent this type of severe outbreak, and that more drills and state support are needed to reduce expected illnesses and deaths. He cited [pandemicflu.gov](http://pandemicflu.gov) as an educational reference. HVCEO members agreed to assist with local communications and coordination on this critical issue, after which Dr. Dworkin was thanked for his presentation.

#### **UPCOMING CL&P TRANSMISSION UPGRADES**

Remarks on transmission upgrades were then made by Richard Walsh and Chris Swan of CL&P. A list of phone numbers restricted to municipal officials use in reaching CL&P was distributed. As for recent transmission developments in Greater Danbury, they noted that the Bethel to Norwalk line that opened in 2006 is now reducing statewide electricity costs by \$150 million per year.

A multi page "Transmission Briefing" was distributed. They noted that CL&P remains committed to working with photovoltaic and other alternative sources. Also that energy audits for buildings may be requested, with a cost savings analysis for twelve municipal buildings in Brookfield recently completed.

#### **PLANNING AHEAD FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

A staff report was provided by Dave Hannon, covering the Justice Assistance Grant, upcoming DEMHS required planning activities, and a review of regional equipment maintained by Danbury on behalf of the Region. Then the Council approved a resolution authorizing an application to CT OPM for a federal JAGLLE grant thru CT OPM for regional radio communications. The motion to approve the grant resolution was made by Joe Borst and seconded by John Hodge, all aye.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Natalie Ketcham then gave the committee report on behalf of herself, Andrea O'Connor and Pat Murphy. For 2008 Chair, they nominated current Secretary Treasurer Andrea O'Connor. Then for Vice Chair, they recommended Pat Murphy. And for the new Secretary Treasurer they recommended retiring Chairman Rudy Marconi.

Then on a motion made by Robert Brown and seconded by Joe Borst, the recommended slate of officers was unanimously elected, with the addition of thanks to Rudy Marconi and Andrea O'Connor for their two years of past service and willingness to continue duties as officers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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