

**MINUTES OF THE 5/16/2008
HVCEO MEETING
AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel.....First Selectman Robert Burke
Bridgewater.....Absent
Brookfield.....First Selectman Robert Silvaggi
Danbury.....Alternate Chief of Staff Michael McLachlan
New Fairfield.....First Selectman John Hodge
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy, Vice Chairman
Newtown.....First Selectman Joseph Borst
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Secretary - Treasurer
Sherman.....Alternate Joseph Keneally

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

From DEP, Deputy Commissioner Amey Marrella and MaryAnn Haverstock, Edgar Hurle and Kathryn Faraci of Connecticut DOT, Robert Miller of the News Times, Keep America Beautiful Program Manager Bronwen Evans, Eric Hampton of CT DEDC, Candlewood Lake Authority Director Larry Marsicano, Richard Schreiner of HART, Robert Kinney of DEMHS, and from the HVCEO staff Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Pat Murphy at 12:30 PM, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

On a motion made by Bob Burke and seconded by John Hodge, the minutes of the meeting of 4/18/2008 were unanimously approved. Then concerning the financial statement for 4/2008, on a motion made by John Hodge and a second by Bob Silvaggi, the financial statement was unanimously approved.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Dave Hannon reviewed the Conn DOT requested Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments and accompanying resolution. The TIP items concerned changes to project costs or schedules for I-84 intersection modifications, I-84 signage improvements, widening of Newtown Road at Shelter Rock Road in Danbury and Conn DOT funds for project scoping and development. He stated that the staff had reviewed them and recommended approval. Then on a motion made by Bob Burke and a second by John Hodge, the TIP amendments and accompanying resolution were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

--- Copies of the regional marketing report entitled "2008 Greater Danbury Difference," forwarded as a courtesy by Steve Bull of the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce, were distributed to members.

--- Jon Chew spoke to the annual grant application for transportation planning. He noted that FY2009 highlights will be 1) and update of the Newtown Routes 6 and 25 curb cut plan, 2) initiation of a Wilton – Redding – Ridgefield Route 7 traffic study with SWRPA in the administrative lead, 3) cooperation with Conn DOT on Phase II of the Danbury Branch Rail Study and 4) cooperation with Conn DOT on a Danbury to Waterbury I-84 exit by exit emergency diversion plan. Then on a motion made by Bob Burke and a second by John Hodge, the FY2009-10 regional transportation planning grant application was unanimously approved.

--- And then on a motion made by Bob Burke and a second by Joe Keneally, the resolution authorizing an annual agreement for transportation planning with Conn DOT was unanimously approved.

PREPARING FOR AGREEMENTS WITH FIRST LIGHT POWER

Jon Chew provided a recap of March and April meeting discussions, noting that at the March meeting Bob Gates of FirstLight stated that it is his Company's intent to work cooperatively with municipalities to find a solution to the newly created regulatory dilemma caused by the loss of local enforcements below the 440 contour on Candlewood Lake due to the Supreme Court ruling in Hackett v. JLG Properties.

Also, that FirstLight is willing to allow local enforcement personnel on to its property for inspections below the 440 and to insure them against liability. FirstLight will continue past practice whereby it only issues permits that clearly condition the approval such that "in addition the applicant must follow all local codes."

Then HVCEO Attorney Ted Backer recommended that the Council write letters to the state building official and the DEP to request their interpretation as to what authority local staffs retain below the 440, prior to delegation of enforcement power to them. At the April 2008 meeting members accepted Attorney Backer's proposal for services in this regard.

As part of that strategy, Representative Mary Ann Carson has since set up the initial meeting with representatives of the Attorney General's office, scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 10:30 AM in Room 2600 of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Pat Murphy then reported on a second format of current negotiations by New Milford with First Light on this issue. She stated that there is a difference between the view of her municipal attorney and the HVCEO attorney as to the ability of First Light to effectively assign back enforcement powers to local staff, with the transfer of authority from FirstLight seen by both that Company and New Milford as more immediately achievable.

EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE

Dave Hannon reported that on May 12 the mayors and first selectmen of DEMHS Region 5 approved the federal FY2007 spending plan for the DEMHS 5 area as recommended by that area's steering committee. The total grant award will be \$942,104. Also, that Rudy Marconi was elected vice chairman of the group. Bob Kinney of DEMHS then reported on various DEMHS activities to involve local staffs. A discussion followed.

INPUT TO DEP ON IMPROVING ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES

Vice Chairman Pat Murphy introduced DEP Deputy Commissioner Amey Marrella who proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation focusing primarily on DEP programs where the municipality is the permittee. Handouts were also distributed. There was considerable discussion of a variety of topics including low impact development, responsible growth, brownfields, and the costs of stormwater management.

PROGRESS REPORT ON I-84 AND ROUTE 7 IMPROVEMENTS

Edgar Hurlle of the Connecticut DOT then made a presentation as to the Region's pending I-84 and Route 7 improvement projects. He reviewed a handout listing projects and their estimated completion dates. Highlights of his report noted that the Route 7 Brookfield Bypass is scheduled for completion in September of 2009. The Phase II Route 7 widening in southern Danbury is scheduled for advertising in August 2008 but funding for the construction phase remains uncommitted, and the much anticipated Danbury to Waterbury I-84 EIS should get underway before the end of this year. A discussion of these and other projects followed.

CIGARETTE LITTER PREVENTION THRU THE KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL (KEB) PROGRAM

Comments on the New Milford KEB program were made by Pat Murphy. A presentation by KEB's Program Manager Bronwen Evans followed, and included the distribution of handouts. A key goal is to educate the public that cigarette butts are litter and should not be discarded on the street, she said.

Participating towns have reduced cigarette butt litter by 40% to 55%. Grants of \$1,500 per municipality are available to HVCEO towns. Ms. Evans then gave a \$1,500 grant check to Pat Murphy for her local KEB program, followed by applause.

ADJOURNMENT

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