

**MINUTES OF THE 9/19/2008
HVCEO MEETING
AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel.....First Selectman Robert Burke
Bridgewater.....Alternate Robert Brown
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.....Alternate Selectman Donald Tackas
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Secretary-Treasurer
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor, Chairman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Eric Hampton of DECD, David Stevenson of Bethel, Robert Kenny and Thomas Vannini of DEMHS Region 5, Dirk Perrefort of the News Times, Rocky Tomlinson of the Northwest Regional Hazmat Response Team Advisory Board, Karen Gaudian of the Ridgefield Lyme Disease Task Force, Frances Ryan of Danbury, Russell Cornelius of the Brookfield Lyme Disease Task Force, 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 Andrea O'Connor at 12:35 PM, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bridgewater Alternate Robert Brown discussed the Housatonic Valley Cultural Alliance to which he is the HVCEO appointee. As last year, he requested a Council contribution of \$200 for sponsorship of a table at the upcoming 11/6/2008 HVCA annual breakfast. On a motion made by Rudy Marconi and a second by Robert Burke, the requested expenditure was unanimously approved.

APPROVALS AND REPORTS

Minutes and Financial Statements: On a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Robert Burke, the minutes of the meeting of 6/20/2008 were unanimously approved with John Hodge abstaining. Concerning the financial statements for 6/2008, 7/2008 and 8/2008, after brief discussion and on a motion made by Robert Burke and a second by Pat Murphy the three financial statements were 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 1) installation of rumble strips on National Highway System freeways statewide and 2) changing the federal funding category for the right of way phase of Danbury's Route 53 – Coal Pit Hill Road – Triangle Street intersection.

On a motion made by Pat Murphy and seconded by Don Tackas, the Council voted its unanimous endorsement for the TIP amendments and accompanying resolution.

Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning: Alliance Chairman Rudy Marconi gave the members a report on Alliance activities in opposing the FAA proposed shift of jet traffic from New York State to western Connecticut.

Danbury Application to FEMA for preparing a Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan: Dave Hannon explained the intent of the application and the ways in which Danbury and the Region would benefit. On a motion made by Pat Murphy and seconded by Don Tackas, the Council voted its unanimous support.

Lyme Disease Task Force: Members reviewed the appointments made thus far. It was agreed that 1) as two appointments per municipality were requested and some made three, the third in each case would be welcome to participate as an observer, and 2) that HVCEO member Andrea O'Connor and alternate Jerry Murphy would serve as the co-chairs for the group.

Planning Projects Update: Jon Chew reviewed the list of upcoming planning projects. He noted that the technical committee for the Bethel Transit Oriented Development Economic Impact Study will bring results thus far to the Bethel Planning and Zoning Commission in October. Also the Danbury portion of the hospital sign plan has been approved by the Danbury police chief and all missing or revised signage installed.

Under the agreement signed by the Council last January for interstate transportation planning coordination, staff will attend a meeting in New York City next week. And as for the recently completed Bridgewater Center Pedestrian Plan, the Town of Bridgewater has signaled its intent to apply for a STEAP grant to implement it.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

An update was provided by Bob Kenny and Tom Vannini of DEMHS Region 5. The subdistricting of DEMHS Region 5 to more formally recognize HVCEO's geographic boundaries in DEMS emergency planning will soon be proposed. There was also discussion of the DEMHS request to municipalities for approval of resolutions for emergency management and homeland security grants.

Rocky Tomlinson of the Northwest Regional Hazmat Response Team Advisory Board then spoke to the Council concerning that Board's request for HVCEO to serve as fiduciary as it engages part time staff to complete its operational plan.

After discussion and on a motion made by Pat Murphy and seconded by Robert Burke, it was agreed unanimously that HVCEO would serve in this capacity, that the chairman or director were authorized to sign contractual documents in this regard, and that the HVCEO budget was hereby amended to incorporate the additional \$58,100 in DEMHS funding.

UPDATE ON REGIONAL PLAN MAP

Jon Chew then made a presentation on the policy map chapter of the regional plan update. Municipal excerpts of the map were distributed to members with the request that they be reviewed. Municipal staff will also meet on 10/7 to review the maps.

OLD BUSINESS

Don Tackas raised the issue of experience with artificial turf at municipal recreational facilities and a discussion was held of the various experiences.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.