

**MINUTES OF THE 10/17/2008
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 Laszlo Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel
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

HVCEO representative to King's Mark Peg Daley, Lynn Waller of Danbury, Richard Harrall and Michael Looney of Harrall Michalowski Associates, Carla Iezzi of Conn DOT, Newtown Planning and Community Development Director Elizabeth Stocker, Danbury Fire Department Chief Geoff Herald, Dirk Perrefort of the News Times, Newtown Emergency Management Director William Halsted, David Stevenson of Bethel, 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.

APPROVALS AND REPORTS

Minutes and Financial Statements: On a motion made by Pat Murphy and seconded by Bob Burke, the minutes of the meeting of 9/19/2008 were unanimously approved. Concerning the financial statement for 9/2008, on a motion made by Bob Silvaggi a second by Jon Hodge the statement was unanimously approved.

Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning: Alliance Chairman Rudy Marconi gave the members a report on Alliance legal and fund raising activities in opposing the FAA proposed shift of incoming LaGuardia Airport jet traffic from New York State to Greater Danbury and western Connecticut.

King's Mark Plan Update: HVCEO's representative to King's Mark, Peg Daley of Newtown, provided a report. She requested that members comment on the draft King's Mark Five Year Work Plan, distributed at the meeting. Upcoming volunteer activities, including this weekend's ramp installation in northern Brookfield, were reviewed.

REGIONAL FIRE PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FACILITY

Danbury Fire Chief Geoff Herald addressed this issue. He noted that there are nine designated "State Regional Fire School" training facilities in Connecticut, but none near our area (Torrington, Waterbury, Fairfield). He stated that Danbury is seeking such a designation for its Plumtrees Road training facility from the Legislature, and is asking for HVCEO support of this action.

Chief Herald then distributed a letter to each municipal representative requesting their signature on a petition to the state in support of the designation.

Chief Herald stated that surrounding municipalities are already using the Danbury training facility, there is an obvious mutual advantage for area fire departments to work together, and that Danbury's policy would be to expand such regional cooperation after the state designation of regional training facility is obtained. A regional oversight board is planned.

As an example of current intertown cooperation he noted that Danbury calls upon Ridgefield for fire emergency support assistance about 25 to 30 times per year. Also that in recent years the current Danbury training facility has provided training to thirteen neighboring communities. Having a regional school would allow all the departments in the area to have a better working relationship, Chief Herald said, also that this on-going cooperation will save each municipality both time and money.

Some practical advantages of the state designation are that state grants for capital improvements and training programs may be received, and state training teams are more available for visits to our area.

The presentation was followed by considerable discussion of the proposal. Then on a motion made by Joe Borst and seconded by Bob Burke, it was voted unanimously to place HVCEO on record as in support of the proposal, request each member to sign the petition on behalf of their respective towns, and place this item on the HVCEO Legislative Agenda for discussion at the legislative breakfast on 12/5. Chief Herald was then thanked by the chair and members for his visit.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

There was discussion by Dave Hannon of a DEMHS memo he distributed from Thomas Vannini concerning the upcoming 11/10/2008 semiannual meeting of the DEMHS Area 5 Emergency Regional Planning Team, that team comprised of municipal chief elected officials. The memo outlined a "Proposed Operating Structure for the Regional Emergency Operations Plan" which will recognize the supplemental role of emergency planning on the basis of regional planning organization boundaries, this action favorable to us.

There was also a discussion of the DEMHS request to municipalities for approval of resolutions for emergency management and homeland security grants.

GREATER DANBURY HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT

The draft report on this subject was presented by Richard Harrall and Michael Looney of Harrall, Michalowski Associates in Branford. The same presentation will be given by them to the Danbury Housing Partnership on November 6.

Copies of the report were distributed to members for their review and comment, with additional copies being mailed to planning commissions, housing partnerships and housing authorities.

UPDATE OF REGIONAL PLAN: CHAPTER ON THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Jon Chew made a PowerPoint presentation on this draft Regional Plan chapter. Copies were distributed for members review and return. Members discussed some of the points presented and advised as to review procedures with town staffs.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.