

**MINUTES OF THE 11/21/2008
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.....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

Carla Iezzi of Conn DOT, Robert Kenny of DEMHS Region 5, Newtown Health Director Donna Culbert, Northwest Conservation District Director Jean Cronauer, Robert Rush of New Milford, Danbury Planning Director Dennis Elpern, SWRPA Regional Planner Benjamin Henson, Russell Cornelius of the Brookfield Lyme Disease Task Force, Karen Gaudian of the Ridgefield Lyme Disease Task Force, Danbury Fire Department Chief Geoff Herald, Redding Police Chief Doug Fuchs, Andrea Rynn of Danbury Hospital, and from the HVCEO staff Camille Acquanita, David Hannon and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Pat Murphy at 12:35 PM, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

--- Public comment was offered by Danbury Fire Department Chief Geoff Herald and Redding Police Chief Doug Fuchs who spoke in favor of purchasing a regional driver training simulator for first responders. WCSU has offered to house the simulator at its West Side Campus, they said. Both driver training, fuel costs, risk management and insurance premiums would be reduced.

Chief Herald noted he had 41 potential new fire vehicle drivers each needing 40-50 hours of training. Public works departments could also participate as the simulator imitates various vehicle cabs such as a snow plow, etc. Estimated costs is about 150k and various grants will be pursued, they said.

--- Public comment was also offered by Karen Gaudian of the Ridgefield Lyme Disease Task Force. She said that the Council's new Tick Borne Disease Task Force needs direction, as there were differing views as to the scope of the authorization for the group stemming from the June HVCEO meeting minutes. Pat Murphy and Mike McLachlan stated that their communities wished the new group to focus on up front prevention rather than on later disease treatment related issues.

There was further discussion of the new Task Force. It was then agreed that the discussion as to the role of the Task Force would be continued as an agenda item at the January 15, 2009 meeting, with health directors requested to be in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS

On a motion made by Joe Borst and seconded by Natalie Ketcham the minutes of the meeting of 10/17/2008 were unanimously approved. Then after discussion and on a motion made by Bob Burke and a second by Bob Brown the financial statement for 9/2008 was unanimously approved.

REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATION

--- **Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning:** Alliance Chairman Rudy Marconi gave the members a report on 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.

The filing of various brief continues. To reduce costs Fairfield County, Delaware County and Rockland County may combine for one oral argument. Lobbying for better appointments to FAA is also a strategy.

--- **Create nominating committee of 2-3 to report in January:** It was agreed that members Natalie Ketcham, Pat Murphy and Bob Burke would serve on this committee.

--- **Membership dues for FY2010:** Jon Chew reviewed an agenda attachment detailing grant sources and recent dues amounts. A discussion followed. Then on a motion made by Natalie Ketcham and a second by Rudy Marconi it was agreed unanimously that the upcoming dues request would be the same as for the current year.

--- **HRRA precedent for switching meetings from third Fridays to third Thursdays.** There was a discussion of following this HRRA precedent, as the meeting schedules of the two regional agencies are often on the same date to reduce travel to regional meetings. Then on a motion made by Natalie Ketcham and a second by John Hodge it was agreed to switch HVCEO meetings from third Fridays to third Thursdays.

--- **"Ready-to-construct" projects for federal stimulus funding:** Dave Hannon noted that Conn DOT had requested that HVCEO submit such a list quickly for federal Stimulus Bill funding. He then distributed the draft list of projects submitted to date from municipalities.

Carla Iezzi stated that CT DOT will give extra consideration to regional priorities. Joe Borst recommended a block grant approach to speed implementation. There was considerable discussion of various needs including the Danbury Branch Line Centralized Train Control project.

COMPARISON OF APPROACHES TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Pat Murphy led this discussion, noting the value of members exchanging ideas and experiences with the issues of affordable housing via statute 8-30g. Also discussed was a summary of options to constraint 8-30g attached to the agenda.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

--- Bob Kenny of DEMHS 5 gave a report on the development of the new Regional Emergency Operations Plan and other DEMHS activities. He noted that local emergency plan updates are due and that this action is needed to qualify a municipality for certain grants.

--- Newtown Health Director Donna Culbert then addressed the Council on the new CT DPH Proposal for Consolidation of Mass Dispensing Areas. The four such areas currently within the Housatonic Valley Region would be combined into one large emergency dispensing area.

There are many disadvantages to such a consolidation she said, distributing a letter dated 11/4/2008 from area health directors to CT DPH on this topic. A discussion followed. Members then agreed to support the health directors' position and to place this issue on the 2009 Legislative Agenda.

NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO ASSIST TOWNS WITH MANAGEMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

A presentation on this topic was then made by Northwest Conservation District Director Jean Cronauer. Access to the state's new clean energy fund was explained, with an incentive receipt of solar panels at no local cost, and other resources relating to energy reduction strategy.

DRAFT 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Members then reviewed the attached draft Legislative Agenda for use at the annual legislative breakfast in Danbury on 12/5/2008. After discussion it was unanimously approved by a motion made by Rudy Marconi and a second by Bob Burke.

OTHER BUSINESS/ ADJOURNMENT

Natalie Ketcham reported significant energy savings accruing from Redding's recent switch to a four day work week.

Then on a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.