

**MINUTES  
OF THE 2/18/2010  
HVCEO MEETING  
AT BROOKFIELD, CT TOWN HALL**

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES ATTENDING**

Bethel.....First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker  
Bridgewater.....Alternate Selectman Curtis Read  
Brookfield.....First Selectman William Davidson  
Danbury.....Alternate Deputy Planning Director Sharon Calitro  
New Fairfield.....Absent  
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy, Chairman  
Newtown.....Alternate Public Works Director Fred Hurley  
Redding.....Absent  
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Secretary-Treasurer  
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor, Vice Chairman  
and Sherman Alternate Selectman Kate McConaghy

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Peter Galant of Tighe & Bond on behalf of the CT Water Works Association, Danbury Superintendent of Public Utilities David Day, Housatonic Valley Cultural Alliance (HVCA) Vice Chair Andrea Gartner, HVCA Executive Director Lisa Scails, New Milford Economic Development Director Vincent Nolan, and from the Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse, Inc. Executive Director Allison Fulton and Prevention Coordinator Heather Sadler.

Also Ken Shooshan-Stoller from the CT Office of the Federal Highway Administration, from the HART staff Richard Schreiner and Ann Katis, Carla Iezzi of Conn DOT, Bethel Director Health Laura Vasile, Danbury Emergency Management Director Paul Estefan, Eric Hampton of CT DECD, 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 Pat Murphy at 12:35 PM, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. No public comment was offered.

**ADMINISTRATION AND SHORT REPORTS**

**---** *Minutes for 1/21/2010:* On a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Curtis Read the minutes of the meeting of 1/21/2010 were unanimously approved.

**---** *Financial Statement for 1/2010:* There was discussion of two contract services line items that had explanatory spread sheets included with the agenda package. Then on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Rudy Marconi the financial statement for 1/2010 was unanimously approved.

**---** *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments:* Dave Hannon reviewed a Conn DOT proposed TIP amendment for Redding Project 116-0131 entitled "Streetscape Enhancement and Pedestrian Access in Georgetown Village Center." He noted that federal and municipal costs were increasing due to design refinements and the construction date estimate increased by one year. There was brief discussion. Then on a motion made by Curtis Read and a second by Matt Knickerbocker, the Redding TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

--- **Applications for Senior Transportation Municipal Grant Program:** HART Service Development Director Richard Schreiner reviewed the requirements for FY2011 funding under Conn DOT's 13b-38bb municipal dial-a-ride grant program, with municipal applications to be forwarded thru HVCEO to CT DOT. Municipalities have already received their application packages from HVCEO, he said. The total available for the ten Housatonic Valley communities is \$292,953 for this sixth year of this state funding program.

A table in the agenda packet entitled "2010 Inventory of Senior/Disabled Dial-A-Ride Programs" prepared by HART projected the application scenario for each locality, with Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, and Ridgefield identified as applying thru HART. Rick Schreiner offered to assist the seven HART member municipalities with their applications, and Dave Hannon will do the same for Bridgewater, Redding and Sherman.

Then on a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Matt Knickerbocker a resolution authorizing Council Secretary Rudy Marconi to submit the Housatonic Valley Region's coordinated municipal 13b-38bb applications to Conn DOT was unanimously approved.

--- **Route 7 South Transportation and Land Use Study Update:** Dave Hannon provided members with an update on the federally funded Route 7 Transportation and Land Use Study undertaken jointly with the South Western Regional Planning Agency, the work conducted by the consulting firm Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. The Study will make recommendations focused primarily on the two lane section of Route 7 between the four lane sections in Wilton and Ridgefield.

Two meetings of the technical committee have been held thus far, he said. The first public information meeting will be on Thursday, February 25, 2010 at the Wilton High School Cafeteria, 6:30 to 8:30. An agenda attachment announcing this meeting was cited.

--- **Emergency Planning Update:** Danbury Emergency Management Director Paul Estefan provided the report. The communications structure for municipalities to contact each other and request the sharing of resources during a major emergency is being developed in accordance with the newly adopted DEMHS Region 5 Emergency Support Plan, he said.

The qualifications for 24/7 Danbury Area regional duty officers are being carefully defined prior to their selection. Municipal chief executives will be kept aware of all decisions regarding this revised incident command structure.

**CT WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION POSITION ON  
PROPOSED CT DEP STREAMFLOW REGULATIONS**

Peter Galant of Tighe & Bond representing the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA), accompanied by Danbury Superintendent of Public Utilities David Day, then made a presentation opposing the proposed DEP streamflow regulations. These regulations have received their public hearing but are not yet finalized and there is still an opportunity for legislation intervention to better balance conflicting interests.

Mr. Galant stated the CWWA position that there were indeed many environmental benefits to increased stream flows. However, that the increased amounts of water required to be released from water supply reservoirs and the greater limits on groundwater well withdrawals

would severely limit the amount of water available for public supply, causing some utilities to impose water use restrictions and moratoria on new connections.

He also stated that the new mandate does not properly balance such major impacts as limitation on economic development with environmental benefit. And the proposal will impose costly burdens on municipal and private utilities for the modification of dams and pipes, development of new storage capacity and adding of personnel. Customer rates will be significantly increased.

He noted that water supply reservoirs will loose between 15% and 50% of their yield, and some well fields will now need to be closed entirely in the summer. There will be significant capital costs to shuttle what excess capacity remains to areas at a distance that are newly in need.

Danbury Superintendent of Public Utilities David Day then reviewed the impact upon the Danbury water supply system. Although proposed implementation by CT DEP will be phased in and Danbury need not comply for several years, the impact then will be dramatic, he said.

The safe yield of the Danbury system is documented at 8.2 million gallons per day (MGD) with 7.0 MGD of that currently in use. Dividing safe yield by current use results in the figure of 1.18, which is just above the state required minimum ratio of 1.15 to enable the City to consider the sale of excess water to adjacent municipalities.

Once the regulations impact Danbury and its safe yield falls by 13%, then the key ratio of 1.18 falls to near 1.00, no cooperation with other municipalities such as Brookfield as to water supply sales will be allowed by state law, Mr. Day said.

A question and answer period followed. Mr. Galant and Mr. Day were then thanked for their presentation.

#### **UPDATE ON THE HOUSATONIC VALLEY CULTURAL ALLIANCE**

HVCA Executive Director Lisa Scails and HVCA Vice President Andrea Gartner then addressed the Council. They reviewed the mission and activities of the HVCA which is to unify and unite the ten town area in cooperative advocacy for the arts.

Various grant resources were discussed. Materials in a handout including the latest annual report were reviewed. HVCEO support for the HVCA Annual Awards Breakfast was noted.

As for the HVCEO appointment to the HVCA board, the resignation of Robert Brown has recently been accepted with regret. Ms. Scails suggested New Milford Economic Development Director Vincent Nolan as a replacement. Mr. Nolan then spoke to the issue and stated his interest, as an active arts community is increasingly seen as vital for this region's economic development marketing.

Then on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Curtis Read, it was voted unanimously to replace Robert Brown with Vincent Nolan as the HVCEO appointment to the HVCA board. It was also agreed with Mr. Nolan that he will provide progress reports to HVCEO on HVCA activities on a semi-annual basis. The two representatives from HVCA were then thanked for their visit.

**HOUSATONIC VALLEY COALITION AGAINST  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE, INC. ACTIVITIES**

HVCASA Executive Director Allison Fulton then provided members with an update on her organization's activities via a PowerPoint presentation. HVCASA is one of 14 state designated regional action councils working against substance abuse she said. Topics within her presentation included funding sources, internal structure, services and examples of recent activities.

Handouts were distributed to members. These included the 2008 Prevention Priority Report, identifying substance abuse issues by municipality. A discussion followed, after which Ms. Fulton was thanked for her visit.

**UPDATE BY TICK BORNE ILLNESS PREVENTION TASK FORCE**

Russell Cornelius of the HVCEO Tick Borne Illness Prevention Task Force then addressed the Council. Concerning 2009 accomplishments and upcoming 2010 activities, highlights of his remarks included the following points:

*--- We have invited several expert guests to speak to us. Randy Nelson of the Department of Public Health agreed that the state's statistics are neither consistent nor reliable. The Department of Public Health has explained to us that they have no plan to do anything more about tick borne diseases. There will be no better statistics, no increased lab and doctor reporting, no prevention message, no health department education.*

*--- Two years ago HVCEO signed a letter in support of having the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection work together to address the deer/tick/Lyme problem. The bill never left committee. This year funding limitations make this idea very difficult.*

*--- The Time For Lyme Educational Curriculum was designed to be placed within the health and safety programs in your schools. A year ago copies of this Curriculum were provided to each town. Four towns agreed to put this program into use in their schools: Brookfield, New Fairfield, Danbury, and Sherman.*

*--- Tick borne illness prevention information is now maintained on the HVCEO web site. Town web sites are asked to link to this regional resource.*

*--- Two years ago, the Ridgefield Health Department received a \$50,000 grant to develop a tick-borne disease prevention program for all area communities. The program created is known as BLAST-- an acronym standing for Bathing after outdoor activity, Looking for ticks and rashes, Applying repellent, Spraying the yard and Treating pets. HVCEO agreed to support the BLAST Prevention Program immediately upon this Task Force's formation.*

*--- All town representatives were asked to incorporate the BLAST five point science-based message in to their tick-borne disease prevention programs. Brochures, age appropriate power points and artwork are all available to download for free from the Ridgefield website or towns can elect to purchase complete Health Fair displays from program coordinator Jennifer Reid at the Ridgefield Health Department.*

*--- Last year BLAST volunteers participating in corporate, VNA, Hispanic, town and hospital health fairs, school events and community programs impacting over 35,000 individuals in the ten town HVCEO area. We look forward to making an even bigger impact in 2010.*

*--- We request that each municipality issue a proclamation to make May the "BLAST Tick-borne Diseases out of Your Town month." This will correspond with the same request made to Governor Rell.*

*--- Deer Management is not an area coordinated directly by the Task Force. But we do discuss the three towns in the HVCEO region that have a controlled hunt in place to reduce the deer population. This year Ridgefield, Redding, and Brookfield reduced the deer population about 10% in each town.*

*--- We predict that in years to come, there will be more deer per square mile, more ticks, the ticks will have a higher disease infection rate, and they are carrying an increasing number of co-infections. There is no statewide program in place or in preparation to deal with this. At the state and regional level there is nothing on the horizon to minimize or contain the deer/tick/Lyme problem.*

*We are your team of folks who are principally focused on the tick borne illness prevention techniques through education. This is the best defense we can offer you right now. We'd like your continued support. You will receive updates about what we are doing from your town's representatives.*

A discussion followed. It was agreed that the draft proclamation requested would be distributed by HVCEO staff. After further discussion Mr. Cornelius was thanked for his visit.

Jon Chew then spoke to the issue of Task Force membership revisions. He noted that under the original organizational format each chief elected official appointed two members to represent their municipality, other interested parties to have observer status and be welcome at the monthly meetings.

But that after almost a year and a half of operations, as with any such effort, the original organizational framework needs adjustment. Typical of these large group situations some of the observers attend every meeting and are the workhorses, and some of the original appointed members have never attended, he said. To update the administrative framework to reflect where the hard driving core membership group really is now, he requested minor changes to the membership roster.

The revised list was then reviewed as part of the agenda package. Then on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Bill Davidson, the revised membership list was unanimously approved.

#### **POTENTIAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES**

As Natalie Ketcham had requested this agenda item but was called away on other business it was agreed to postpone discussion until the next meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Staff was directed to send a letter of appreciation to former Bridgewater Alternate Robert Brown for his many years of participation at HVCEO meetings.

There was a report by Matt Knickerbocker, Rudy Marconi and Dave Hannon regarding their ride on the Danbury Branch Line this AM with Congressman Himes and Congressman Murphy. The purpose of the trip and related press conference was to promote ridership and draw attention to Branch Line improvement needs, they said.

Rudy Marconi reported that the Federal Aviation Administration had ruled that an EIS would be needed for proposed New York Metro Area flight path changes, a victory for Connecticut interests.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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