

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE 3/18/2010**  
**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.....Absent  
New Fairfield.....Alternate Selectman Susan Chapman  
New Milford.....Mayor Patricia Murphy, Chairman  
Newtown.....First Selectman Patricia Llodra  
Redding.....First Selectman Natalie Ketcham  
Ridgefield.....Absent  
Sherman.....First Selectman Andrea O'Connor, Secretary  
and Alternate Selectman Kate McConaghy

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Danbury Emergency Management Director (EMD) Paul Estefan, New Milford EMD Marla Scribner, New Milford Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator Karen Mangin, Paul Losacco of Redding CERT, Ridgefield EMD Fire Chief Heather Burford, Ridgefield CERT Coordinator Richard Aarons, New Fairfield EMD Jean Flynn and Mr. Flynn, and Tom Vannini of DEMHS 5.

Then attending from the HART staff were Richard Schreiner and Ann Katis, Carla Iezzi of Conn DOT, Andrea Rynn of Danbury Hospital, Alice Hutchinson of Bethel, Robert Rush of the New Milford Planning Commission, 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. Under public comment Rick Schreiner of HART addressed the need to submit remaining paperwork for Conn DOT's 13b-38bb municipal dial-a-ride grant program. Then Candy Acquanita reported that New Fairfield First Selectman John Hodge was on the mend and out of the hospital today.

**ADMINISTRATION AND SHORT REPORTS**

*--- **Minutes for 2/18/2010 Meeting:** On a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Bill Davidson, the minutes of the meeting of 2/18/2010 were unanimously approved, with an abstention by Natalie Ketcham.*

*--- **Financial Statement for 2/2010:** On a motion made by Andrea O'Connor and seconded by Natalie Ketcham, the financial statement for 2/2010 was unanimously approved.*

*--- **CARPO Funding Appeal to Governor Rell:** Jon Chew reviewed the agenda's attached letter from the CT Association of Regional Planning Organizations to Governor Rell, requesting restoration of state funding to HVCEO and the other 14 regions.*

*It noted that, as many voices in the state are calling for more regionalism, the total elimination (\$74,000 annually for HVCEO) rather than a percentage cut will greatly reduce staff capacity to pursue the regional efficiencies now being sought.*

*He reported that CARPO representatives were invited to meet on this issue with the Governor's staff on 3/16. They stated that they receive scores of requests for meetings concerning budget cuts, and the fact that CARPO was invited to present its case should be viewed as significant.*

*As for actual restoration of funding there was no clear commitment, other than to suggest the possibility of a token amount indicating the Rell Administration's interest in retaining the institutional and professional infrastructure of Connecticut's planning regions as participants in the upcoming focus on regionalism.*

**--- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments:** Dave Hannon reviewed Conn DOT's proposed TIP amendments for its use of FHWA Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to enable it to scope, engineer and develop new projects in cooperation with regional planning agencies and municipalities.

*There was brief discussion. Then on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Bill Davison, the five STP related TIP amendments were unanimously approved.*

### **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS REPORT**

Dave Hannon introduced the topic of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), created by a federal initiative to train citizens in basic disaster response skills. CERT "second responders" assist the more widely known municipal "first responders" during an emergency. The authority to activate CERT volunteers lies with the municipal EMD.

Community by community reports were then given. Dave Hannon read into the record a letter report from Bethel EMD Tom Galliford who could not attend today. Then local updates were given by Danbury EMD Paul Estefan, New Milford CERT Coordinator Karen Mangin, Paul Losacco of Redding CERT, Ridgefield EMD Fire Chief Heather Burford, and Ridgefield CERT Coordinator Richard Aarons.

Questions and answers followed. Chairman Murphy then thanked attendees for their informative presentations.

### **COORDINATION OF MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS**

Natalie Ketcham led off a discussion of what might be done by HVCEO to assist local efforts to develop affordable housing. Members commented on the definition of affordable housing and current issues. Jon Chew is to review staff resources and advise if assistance might be available in this area.

### **HVCEO PUBLICATIONS 2010-2012**

Jon Chew gave members an overview of upcoming publications, briefly summarizing each:

- 152. PLANNED: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2011-2040
- 151. PLANNED: PASSENGER RAIL EXPANSION PLAN
- 150. PLANNED: RAIL STATION AND PARKING IMPROVEMENT PLAN
- 149. PLANNED: I-84 EMERGENCY CLOSURE DIVERSION PLAN
- 148. PLANNED: FEASIBILITY OF A TRANSPORTATION CENTER AT THE BRANCHVILLE STATION
- 147. PLANNED: ROUTE 7 DRIVEWAY MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR DANBURY, REDDING AND RIDGEFIELD
  
- 146. IN PROGRESS: REDDING AND RIDGEFIELD EXISTING ROUTE 7 TRANSPORTATION STUDY
- 145. IN PROGRESS: SHERMAN NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN
- 144. IN PROGRESS: BETHEL STATION TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY
- 143. IN PROGRESS: NEWTOWN ROUTES 25, 202 AND 816 ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

He also stated that two additional studies, a traffic management plan for Newtown Road in Danbury and a curb cut access plan for state roadways in Bethel, may be added to the list if federal funds for these initiatives are approved.

### **LYME DISEASE PREVENTION UPDATE**

It was noted that at the February 18 meeting members agreed to adopt municipal proclamations as proposed by the HVCEO Tick Borne Illness Prevention Task Force, and entitled "May 2010 as BLAST Tick-Borne Illnesses Out of (insert municipality) Month."

It was then agreed that, as requested by the Task Force, members would bring their municipal proclamations to the 4/15 HVCEO meeting and pose for a group photo with their proclamations, Task Force members to then distribute the photo to the media.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.