

MINUTES

Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 12:00 noon

Room 310, State Capitol

Hartford, Connecticut

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectman, and Karen Wilson, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Ellen Samoska, Alternate, Bethlehem; Ron SanAngelo, Mayor, Naugatuck; August Palmer III, First Selectman, Oxford; Robert Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Mark A.R. Cooper, First Selectman, Southbury; Meredith Robson, Town Manager, Watertown; Thomas Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Richard Crane, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Legislators: Rep. Alfred Adinolfi, District 103; Rep. David Labriola, District 131; Rep. Craig Miner, District 66; Rep. Sean Williams, District 68; Rep. Arthur O'Neill, District 69; Rep. Kevin DelGobbo, District 70; Rep. Selim Noujaim, District 74; Rep. John Piscopo, District 76; Rep. Vickie Nardello, District 89; Sen. Joan Hartley, District 15; Sen. Louis DeLuca, District 32.

Other Attendees: Lou Mangini, U.S. Rep. Rosa Delauro's Office; Grayson Wright, Conn DOT; Dr. Marc Taylor, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition; Kathy McNamara, Chair, Waterbury Inland Wetlands Commission; Chris Wood, Planner, Town of Woodbury; Randy James, Republican-American; Aide to Sen. Joseph Crisco, District 17.

Staff: Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Michael Flood, Regional Planner; Samuel Gold, Regional Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator, Jeffrey Cormier, GIS Planning Assistant; and Selma Alves, Secretary.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions, Public Comment

At 12:09 pm, Chairman Mark Cooper called the meeting to order and those present recited the pledge of allegiance. Peter Dorpalen called the roll and introduced legislators and guests. There was no public comment.

2. COGCNV Legislative Priorities / Legislators' Perspectives

The COGCNV Legislative Position Statement: 2006, approved by COGCNV on October 14th, 2005, was presented to the region's legislators. Chairman Mark Cooper stated each of the major legislative agenda items and discussion followed. The following are highlights of the major topics discussed:

The most-discussed issue was the Governor's proposal for a repeal of the car tax. Ron SanAngelo said that the removal of cars from the grand list will likely cause an increase in mil rates if state funding does not match or keep up with the revenue that the towns would otherwise receive from car taxes. Another legislator stated that since the DMV does not have a formula to determine what vehicles would still be taxable (i.e. commercial and recreational vehicles), it is unknown how much car tax revenue towns will still be receiving.

Under transportation and the recommendation for continued legislative support of a new I-84 / Route 8 interchange, First Selectman Richard Crane pointed out that during construction that attention be given to the impact on traffic on US Rte 6 through Woodbury, Watertown, and Thomaston. Ron SanAngelo asked legislators to put pressure on ConnDOT to better maintain its facilities in particular keeping its property and highway underpasses and supports free of litter and graffiti.

There was also a lively discussion around reducing unfunded state mandates and prohibiting new ones. The legislators present during that part of the discussion requested greater specificity on which unfunded

mandates are particularly onerous to towns. A legislator pointed out that not all state mandates are bad or would be ones that towns would like to do without such as building inspectors or kindergartens. Nevertheless there are unfunded mandates that are unnecessary. Thomas Dunn also brought up the issue of the state mandate that the town must store the belongings of people evicted from their homes. Republican legislators present stated that binding arbitration reform is not on the General Assembly's agenda this year due to Democratic control.

Ron SanAngelo asked legislators for a statewide effort and funds to combat drug addiction throughout the state.

3. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of January 13, 2005, COGCNV Meeting* — On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Ron SanAngelo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 13, 2005 COGCNV Meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of January 31, 2006, the Council was 58.8% through the fiscal year and had expended 51.2% of the \$631,791 operating budget. Of the total budgeted amount which includes pass-through funds, 19.8% of the \$1,851,202 budget had been expended. The STIF account totaled \$11,357. The Webster Checking account was \$5,742. The STIF Reserve Fund had a balance of \$171,213.

- c. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent COGCNV correspondence.

January 10, 2006 Letter from Bethlehem First Selectman Leo Bulvanoski appointing Ellen Samoska as his alternate.

January 17, 2006 Letter to EPA requesting a time extension for the City of Waterbury's sewer grant administered by COGCNV.

January 17, 2006 Letters to mayors and first selectmen on the COGCNV municipal dues for FY2006-07.

January 20, 2006 Letters of invitation to area legislators inviting them to COGCNV's legislative meeting in February.

4. February 2006 Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program

- a. *Statewide, CT Transit Bus Replacement (Project 0400-T040)* — Michael Flood reported that ConnDOT is requesting that COGCNV approve an amendment to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. CT Transit plans to replace buses with \$500,000. No new buses are expected for the Waterbury Area. The details of the amendment are listed in COG memorandum 020806. On a motion of Meredith Robson, seconded by Susan Cable it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the February 2006 amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program 2005-2009, as presented in Memorandum 020806.

5. **Recreational Trails Program** — Samuel Gold reported that the Bethlehem Land Trust has requested a letter of support for their application to the National Recreational Trails Grant Program to fund a parking lot and trails at the Two Rivers Preserve in Bethlehem. On a motion by Ellen Somoska,

seconded by Susan Cable, it was unanimously

VOTED: To support the Bethlehem Land Trust's National Recreational Trails Grant application for the Two Rivers Preserve.

6. Regional Business

- a. *Municipal Wage and Benefit Survey* — Peter Dorpalen reported that responses were received by only four towns. He encouraged the remaining towns to submit their municipal wage and benefit surveys.
- b. *Other Regional Business* — There was no other regional business.

7. Other

- a. *Possible maintenance of USGS computer model for Pomperaug River Watershed* — Virginia Mason reported that the Pomperaug Watershed Coalition received money to create a computer model of the watershed. The model will allow a community to calculate the quantitative impact that a development would have on the Pomperaug Watershed. Virginia stated that a place must be found to locate and maintain the computer model once the project is completed. Dr. Marc Taylor of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition spoke on how this computer model will be a valuable tool for land use commissions within the watershed. Peter Dorpalen said that the next step would be for COG GIS Coordinator Glenda Prentiss to look at the model and see what work would be required to maintain it.
- b. *Possible participation in OPM development build-out pilot study* — Peter Dorpalen reported that part of the Blue Ribbon committee is a build out analysis of Connecticut. This analysis will see where we will be if we continue developing the way we have been. Before OPM conducts a build-out analysis for the entire state, they decided to conduct a pilot one for one region. The Central Naugatuck Valley is being considered for this pilot study because of the work that Virginia Mason and Glenda Prentiss have done with the Pomperaug and impervious surface analysis.
- c. *CERT Exercise* — Virginia Mason reported the CERT teams from Wolcott, Southbury, Woodbury, Thomaston and Naugatuck will be invited to a refresher exercise from 9 am to noon at the Thomaston firehouse on March 20th.

8. Adjournment

At 1:30 PM, on a motion by Thomas Dunn, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Samuel Gold, Regional Planner

For
Thomas Dunn
Secretary