

MINUTES
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley
Bin 300 World Bistro
300 Wolcott Road (Route 69 at Munson Road)
Wolcott, CT
Friday, December 12, 2008, 12:00 Noon

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectman, Karen Wilson, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Jeff Hamel, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Michael Bronko, Mayor, Naugatuck; Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers, First Selectman, Oxford; H. William Davis, First Selectman, Jennifer Naylor, Alternate, Southbury; Maura Martin, First Selectman, Thomaston; Theresa Caldarone, Alternate, Waterbury; Chuck Frigon, Town Manager, Watertown; Thomas Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Paul Hinckley, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Speakers and Guests: Sam Caligiuri, State Senator, District 16; Rob Kane, State Senator, District 32; Theresa Conroy, State Representative Elect, District 105; David Labriola, State Representative, District 131; John Mazurek, State Representative, District 80; Craig Miner, State Representative, District 66; Selim Noujaim, State Representative, District 74; Roy Cavanaugh, Watertown Director of Public Works; Kenny Curran, Congressman Christopher Murphy's Office; Paul Nonnemacher, Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority; Grayson Wright, ConnDOT.

Staff: Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Joseph Perrelli, Regional Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator; Jeffrey Cormier, Regional Planner/GIS Specialist; Patricia Bauer, Financial Manager; Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant.

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

Chairman Susan Cable called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of November 14, 2008 COGCNV Meeting* — On a motion by Paul Hinckley, seconded by Michael Bronko, with Susan Cable abstaining, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the November 14, 2008 COGCNV meeting.

- b. *Minutes of November 17, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting* — On a motion by Paul Hinckley, seconded by Michael Bronko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting.

- c. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as November 30, 2008 the Council was 42% through the fiscal year and had expended 35% of its operating budget. Of the total budget, including pass-through funds, 17% has been expended. The STIP account has a \$46,000 balance, there is \$5,000 in the Webster account, and \$247,000 in the reserve fund.

On a motion by Michael Bronko, seconded by Thomas Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

- d. *COGCNV Dues* — Peter Dorpalen recommended that dues remain at the same level they have for the past two years, 42.7¢ per capita.

On a motion by Paul Hinckley, seconded by Michael Bronko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To have COGCNV dues remain at 42.7¢ per capita.

- e. *2009 Meeting Schedule* — Referring to a revised COGCNV meeting schedule, Peter Dorpalen noted that the February 2009 COG meeting date was changed to February 13 instead of February 20. All other dates remain the same.

On a motion by Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers, seconded by Michael Bronko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the 2009 meeting schedule.

- f. *Household Hazardous Waste Administrative Fees* — Jeff Cormier said that the program's administrative fee would remain at \$12,000.

On a motion by Michael Bronko, seconded by Theresa Caldarone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the FY 2009-10 Household Hazardous Waste administrative fees at a total of \$12,000 for the region's 10 participating municipalities, with each municipality's fee based on 2006 population estimates as presented in Memorandum 120508A.

Jeff Cormier said that the Household Hazardous Waste Committee recommended approval of a one time fee of \$1,000 to participate in the Product Stewardship Initiative (PSI) paint program. PSI is a program that works with paint retailers and manufacturers to reduce the generation of leftover paint and increase reuse opportunities. The one time fee ensures Connecticut is included in the early roll-out scheduled for 2011. Participating in this program means that manufacturers, not municipalities, will pay for the disposal of latex and oil based paints at HHW events.

On a motion by Michael Bronko, seconded by Theresa Caldarone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve a one-time Product Stewardship Initiative Fee of \$100 per municipality for the region's 10 participating municipalities, as presented in Memorandum 120508A.

- g. *Benefits for Permanent Part-Time Employees* — Peter Dorpalen stated that COGCNV permanent part-time employees would like pro-rated benefits for leave time, sick time, holiday time and vacation. Mr. Dorpalen conducted a survey of all the regional planning organizations in Connecticut. Of the 11 responses received, 8 of the organizations provide some sort of benefits for their permanent part-time employees, pro-rated leave time being the most common. Susan Cable reported that pro-rated leave time for the permanent part-time staff was supported by the executive committee. Mr. Dorpalen will report additional findings at a future date.

- h. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent correspondence:

November 20, 2008 Memorandum to mayors and first selectmen transmitting a memorandum of agreement to be signed for equipment funded by the DEMHS FY07 Stage II grant

November 25, 2008 Letter to owner of COGCNV office building, stating that COGCNV would like to enter into a new lease

December 1, 2008 Letters of invitation to area legislators for the December COGCNV meeting

3. COGCNV Legislative Priorities/Legislators' Perspectives

Peter Dorpalen and Susan Cable spoke about the high priority issues for COGCNV municipalities, those being state aid and unfunded mandates. Ms. Cable invited the legislators present to address those or other issues.

State Representative, District 80, John Mazurek spoke about anticipated state budget deficits. He expects there will be great difficulty in reaching a budget agreement. He expects towns will not receive more state aid than they have in the past.

State Senator Sam Caligiuri, District 16, said that the budget crisis may help with the repeal of some unfunded mandates such as the FOI mandate and the in-school suspension mandate. Senator Caligiuri believes it will be hard to maintain funding and that the municipalities will see funding cuts.

State Representative, District 74, Selim Noujaim agreed that there will be budget problems. He stated that he will continue to work on brownfields issues as a way of encouraging economic growth in the area. He spoke about Connecticut's need to become more business friendly and lessen some state regulations.

State Representative, District 66, Craig Miner also spoke about the state's anticipated 6 billion dollar deficit. He stated that a substantive change is needed in the way the State of Connecticut does business. He believes the legislators should begin their financial discussions before the governor puts forth her budget to the public, so that they have a better idea of where things are headed. He believes the budget issue should be the first priority, before any other initiatives are discussed.

State Representative Elect, District 105, Theresa Conroy said she realizes there will be some tough times ahead, but stated she is looking forward to starting work on the issues facing the state.

Maura Martin and Tom Dunn spoke about transferring transportation and storage costs in eviction cases from the municipality to the property owner, or permitting a municipality to place a lien on the property.

Tom Dunn also spoke about tax exempt group homes and the effect this has on a municipality's tax base. Currently, chief elected officials are not notified of any proposal to establish a group home in a municipality, and no public hearings are required to notify town residents or neighboring property owners.

State Representative, District 131, David Labriola said that decreasing municipal aid would be equivalent to a tax increase. He believes it will be a long, difficult session for the state legislators.

Selim Noujaim spoke about making Route 69 a priority with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The state would then work with the federal government to bring in funding. He requested that COGCNV write a letter in support of the project.

State Senator, District 32, Rob Kane spoke about state aid to municipalities. Many of the smaller towns do not get the same sort of funding back that other communities do, compared to what they put into the state capitol. He was in agreement with COGCNV's legislative priorities.

4. **Agreement Authorizations**

- a. *OPM Sewer Service Mapping Grant - Notice of Grant Award Authorization* — Peter Dorpalen stated that this grant had been awarded to COGCNV by the state.

On a motion by Paul Hinckley, seconded by Thomas Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Chairman Susan A. Cable to enter into an agreement with OPM for a Sewer Service Mapping Grant.

- b. *Renewal of Care Environmental Household Hazardous Waste Agreement* — Jeff Cormier said that COGCNV had entered into a contract in 2007 with Care Environmental concerning household hazardous waste collection. The contract included two one year renewals, 2009 being the second year. The Household Hazardous Waste Committee had met and recommended renewing the contract with Care Environmental for 2009.

On a motion by Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers, seconded by Mike Bronko, it was unanimously

VOTED: To renew the household hazardous waste contract with Care Environmental for 2009.

- c. *Police Emergency Response Plan Consultant Agreement* — Virginia Mason said that four firms had been interviewed for this project, and the Horsley-Whitten Group had been selected as the consultant.

On a motion by Michael Bronko, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Chairman Susan A. Cable to enter into an agreement with Horsley-Whitten Group for the Police Emergency Response Plan, pending verification of their references.

- d. *DEMHS Region 5 FY2007 Stage II Equipment Memorandums of Agreement* — Virginia Mason explained that DEMHS requires additional MOAs be signed for this project.

On a motion by Jeff Hamel, seconded by Paul Hinckley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Susan A. Cable to sign DEMHS Region 5 FY2007 Stage II Equipment Memorandums of Agreement.

5. **Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

Sam Gold advised that there were two December 2008 amendments to the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

The first amendment concerns the Naugatuck River Greenway. COGCNV has received a federal grant of \$147,000 to conduct a design and routing study for the Naugatuck River Greenway in the Central Naugatuck Valley Region. An amendment to the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is required to initiate the project. The greenway amendment will add Beacon Falls,

Naugatuck, Waterbury, and Thomaston to the design and routing study of the Naugatuck River Greenway Design Study (Project No. 0151-XXXX).

Jeff Cormier explained that the second TIP amendment concerns paint and repairs to the Depot Street bridge construction in Beacon Falls (Project No. 0006-0117). It will move the funding from 2008 to 2009 and adds two new funding sources.

On a motion by Mike Bronko, seconded by Chuck Frigon, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the December 2008 amendments to the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

6. Project Updates

- a. *Emergency Planning* — Virginia Mason stated that the Emergency Planning Committee met recently and voiced some concern about members not showing up for the meetings. As a number of decisions are now being made by the committee, it is recommended that members send an alternate to meetings if they are unable to attend personally.

A speaker from the state's office of disabilities had recently spoken to the group and is planning to conduct a conference in DEMHS Region 5 to help municipalities address emergency planning needs for the disabled population.

Ms. Mason also said the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition recently hosted a conference that both she and Paul Hinckley attended. Mr. Hinckley spoke about the drought simulation exercise conducted at the conference and the towns that would be impacted by any issue with the Pomperaug River Watershed. He encouraged town officials to attend future conferences.

- b. *GIS Parcel Mapping Project* — Virginia Mason said final maps had been prepared for Thomaston, Bethlehem, and Beacon Falls. Training for town staff members will take place shortly. Parcel mapping for Middlebury and Cheshire is well underway. Wolcott is working to upgrade its information, and will be the next town for the parcel mapping project.
- c. *Municipal Government Training Academy* — Peter Dorpalen discussed the upcoming Municipal Government Training Academy calendar.
- d. *Social Service Client Software Training - January 15* — Peter Dorpalen noted that this training session will be conducted as part of the Municipal Government Training Academy and encouraged the towns to send appropriate personnel to the session.
- e. *HomeCT* — Virginia Mason stated that the program has been presented to Cheshire and Woodbury. It will go before the Planning & Zoning Commission in Cheshire shortly. Thomaston's application has been submitted. Discussions are underway with Watertown.

7. Regional Business

- a. *Solid Waste — Future of CRRA Mid-CT Project* — Peter Dorpalen discussed a report that had been prepared by MSW Consultants for the Capitol Region Council of Governments. He reviewed the options suggested in the study for an optimized integrated solid waste management strategy and suggested COGCNV may also want to start thinking about options.

- b. *Economic Stimulus Package - Shovel-Ready Projects* — Peter Dorpalen requested that towns forward their lists of shovel-ready highway or bridge projects to COGCNV for submission to ConnDOT. The deadline is December 23. COGCNV will follow up with the towns.

8. **Other**

Paul Nonnemacher of CRRA stated that in January 2009 CRRA will be holding the next meeting of its Municipal Advisory Committee. He invited interested parties to attend and also to discuss the MSW Consultants solid waste report at that meeting.

Virginia Mason reminded everyone the FTA Section 5310 mini-bus applications have been sent to the municipalities.

Ms. Mason also stated that she invited Bill Hogan of the Department of Environmental Protection to speak about developing a water pollution control plan and sewer service area map. The event will take place on January 29. COGCNV will send out further information.

Peter Dorpalen said that he will send follow-up thank you letters to the legislators who attended the COG meeting, as well as letters to those legislators who were unable to attend.

- 9. **Adjournment** — at 1:50 p.m., on a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Jeff Hamel, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant

for

Michael Bronko
Secretary