



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth St., 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT

10 a.m., Friday, February 9, 2018

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Chris Bielik, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; David Deakin, Alternate, Bethlehem; Andrew Baklik, Alternate, Derby; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; David Merchant, Mayor, Plymouth; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Seymour; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Mary Ellen Edwards, Alternate, Woodbury.

Guests/Other: Jennifer Siskind, Food & Water Watch; Stephanie Podewell, Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty's Office; April Chapman, Kennedy Center; Ellen Graham, Senator Richard Blumenthal's Office; Sara Radacsi, CTDOT; Kenny Curran, Senator Chris Murphy's Office; Judy Mancini, City of Waterbury; members of the public.

Staff: Rick Dunne (phone), Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Joanna Rogalski, Glenda Prentiss, Trish Bauer, Lauren Rizzo, Christian Meyer, John DiCarlo, Max Tanguay-Colucci, Ben Muller, Bill Leverence.

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a presentation about fracking waste in Connecticut by Jennifer Siskind of Food & Water Watch.

1. Commencement of Meeting (Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment)

Chairman Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

2. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the January 12, 2018 CNVMPO & NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Chris Bielik, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 12, 2018 CNVMPO and NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Review of 2017 NVCOG Draft Audit Report* – Bill Leverence said the Executive Committee approved the draft audit report on December 18, 2017. In the audit report, the fund balance was affected and the findings were the same as the previous year's audit, basically because the audits for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 were being conducted around the same time. The findings have been addressed with the current fiscal year that began in July. Mr. Leverence noted that there had been discussion at last month's meeting about whether or not the report needed to be approved. He distributed a "best practice" print-out from the Government Finance Officers Association that dealt with the topic of audit committees. He said NVCOG's auditor had requested that the audit be accepted so that the report could be released. He added that NVCOG's Financial Policies and Procedures manual does not address approval or acceptance of the annual audit, but this could be changed, if the board so desired.

Mayor Lauretti stated he strongly disagreed, and that an audit is an independent document that is the work of someone else, and to accept or reject it is wrong, and he would oppose doing so. Rick

Dunne said Mayor Lauretti is correct in that there is no law requiring acceptance or approval of the audit, but there are two pieces to what is being submitted. There is the independent auditor's opinion of the management report, and the other piece of the audit is the management report itself. No action needs to be taken as a board, as management can submit the audit without any vote of the board, but he feels it is best practice for the audit committee to review the audit and make a recommendation to the board to at least accept management's report. Either way, the report will be submitted to OPM. Mayor Lauretti said he would be okay with accepting management's report.

On a motion by Mark Lauretti, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept management's report concerning the audit.

- c. *Approval of Year-to-Date NVCOG Financial Report* – Bill Leverence reviewed the January financial report (distributed at the meeting). Ed Mone said he would like to receive financial reports in advance so that they can be reviewed in depth. Mr. Leverence said the issue was with the timing of the monthly meetings, and there was no time to get the reports any earlier. Mr. Leverence said the financial reports could be emailed upon completion, which is normally a day or two before the meeting. Mr. Mone said he would prefer this be the case. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Chris Bielik, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the year-to-date NVCOG financial report.

- d. *Director's Report* – There was no Director's Report.

3. **Approval of Resolution Supporting Recognition of Regional Councils of Governments as County Equivalents for Connecticut by the U.S. Census Bureau**

Mark Nielsen said the Census Bureau usually tabulates the data they receive by counties, but county government was abolished in Connecticut in 1959. However, there is a policy within regulations to designate county equivalents for states that do not have counties. CTCOG has asked OPM to request of the Census Bureau that they recognize the COG boundaries as a county equivalent. The action would also make COGs eligible to apply for certain grants that are currently, due to federal regulations, only available to counties. OPM will make the request to the Bureau, but needs approved resolutions showing the support of the COGs. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Jeff Manville, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve NVCOG Resolution 2018-08 supporting the recognition of regional councils of governments as county equivalents for Connecticut by the U.S. Census Bureau.

4. **Authorization for the Executive Director to Execute & Deliver Notice of Grant Award for the 2018 Regional Services Grant**

Mark Nielsen explained that this would authorize the Executive Director to execute and return to OPM NVCOG's authorization for service grant funding. On a motion by George Temple, seconded by Andrew Baklik, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve NVCOG Resolution 2018-09 concerning the 2018 Regional Services Grant.

Prior to moving on to NVCOG Planning/Transportation items, Mayor Lauretti asked to address an issue brought up during CTDOT Commissioner Redeker's presentation in January 2018. Regarding troubles

with the special transportation fund, he said, there had been a consensus that NVCOG would support tolling. Mayor Lauretti felt it was important to recognize that he does not currently support tolling as it was presented to the legislature through the governor, which incorporated raising the gas tax, the tax on tires, etc. Ed Mone said he felt it was ambiguous as to what NVCOG was endorsing. Tolls may be a viable alternative, but he had since learned there is no definitive plan being presented. First Selectman Mone said he would need to know more about it before he could fully endorse it and concurred with Mayor Lauretti. Pete Hess thought the intent of NVCOG's motion was only to say that tolls should be part of the solution, recognizing that there are other issues out there. He did not believe anyone was trying to pin anyone else to being all in favor of tolls. Mayor O'Leary said he understood the concerns. Ed St. John noted the need to have a transportation lock box. Rick Dunne said the legislature cannot implement tolls, all they can do is authorize the tolling of the highways and then the governor or the transportation commissioner can petition the congress for relief from the current federal prohibition; there is nothing the legislature can do to implement tolls as things stand today. Mayor O'Leary stated he did not think that anyone had been looking for a strong endorsement, but rather for further exploration, alternatives and options. Mark Lauretti said the issue has already drawn public comment that this region is in favor of tolls, but that is a blanket statement which misconstrues what the intent is.

5. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *Long Range Transportation Plan Status Report* – Mark Nielsen said this report will include a pedestrian plan, a freight plan, and a highway safety plan as part of the transportation planning process.
- b. *Congestion Management Process Discussion* – Mr. Nielsen stated this process is required by Federal Highway for larger urban areas, and while Waterbury does not meet this criteria, parts of the NVCOG region are in the Hartford urbanized area and the Bridgeport-Stamford urbanized area. NVCOG was been working with CRCOG, WestCOG, and MetroCOG in putting together a congestion management process for the greater region. NVCOG is also coordinating with the New York metropolitan area.
- c. *NRG Thomaston-Torrington Routing Study Update* – Mr. Nielsen said the kick-off meeting for this project took place in January 2018. The study will create and identify a consensus defined alignment between the communities.
- d. *Hartford Regional Traffic Incident Management Coalition Discussion* – Mr. Nielsen said CRCOG had created this incident management team years ago and would like to re-energize it. It brings together first responders and other groups that respond to an incident on a highway or road.

6. Discussion – List of Local Priorities to be Considered in the Water Resources Development Act

Mark Nielsen said a letter had been received from the senate delegation informing mayors and first selectmen that the U.S. Senate is beginning to consider legislation governing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works program, commonly known as the Water Resources Development Act. The measure, which is periodically passed by Congress, most recently in 2016, authorizes funding for Corps-related water resources projects such as flood control, dams, dredging and ecosystem replenishment. Each senator has been asked for a list of Corps-related water resources priorities. Ellen Graham of Senator Richard Blumenthal's office said she would resend the letter from the senate delegation and encouraged anyone with questions about qualifying projects to contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Contact information is contained within the letter. Kenny Curran of Senator Chris Murphy's

office said it would be good to remind the Army Corps of Engineers of any projects they may already be aware of.

7. **Other**

Mayor Neil O'Leary spoke about the steady growth in school population that Waterbury is experiencing. Many other towns are experiencing declining enrollment. During a conversation with a state senator and others, the topic of moving some Waterbury students to other school districts arose. It is believed there will be a reformulation of the education cost sharing grant whereby it will be based on student population and demographics. Mayor O'Leary said the senator is considering putting in a bill to give relief to any city or town that would be interested in taking overflow students. The students involved would not have significant needs, as Waterbury is well equipped to serve them. Discussion followed. Any town with serious interest should have a conversation with their school superintendent and contact Mayor O'Leary's office for any additional information.

8. **Adjournment**

At 11:25 a.m., on a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Services Coordinator
for
Ed Mone
Secretary



NVCOG RESOLUTION 2018-08

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS AS COUNTY
EQUIVALENTS FOR CONNECTICUT BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**

WHEREAS, Public Act 152 abolished county government in the state of Connecticut in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes established regional councils of governments as political subdivisions of the state and authorizes them to provide regional services including: "(1) engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning; (20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation" (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-31b); and

WHEREAS, regional councils of governments are enabled by Connecticut General Statutes to "accept or participate in any grant, donation or program made available to counties by any other governmental or private entity" (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-31b); and

WHEREAS, federal recognition of regional councils of governments as county equivalents for the state of Connecticut would bring federal practice into conformity with Connecticut General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, federal recognition of regional councils of governments as county equivalents for the state of Connecticut would not change any provision of the Connecticut General Statutes or municipal ordinances;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments supports federal recognition of regional councils of governments as county equivalents for the state of Connecticut.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified Secretary of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on February 9, 2018.

BY: 

Ed Mone, Secretary

DATE: February 9, 2018

NVCOG RESOLUTION 2018-09

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE/RESOLUTION

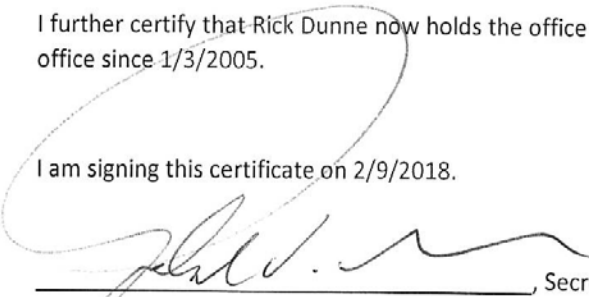
I, Edmond Mone, Secretary of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, an organization (the "Organization") existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, certify that the following are true and complete resolutions which were adopted at a duly called and held meeting of the governing body of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on 2/9/2018, and that such resolutions have not been amended or modified and continue to be in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Organization execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut a Notice of Grant Award (the "Agreement") in the amount of \$220,060.00 for the 2018 Regional Services Grant.

RESOLVED, that Rick Dunne, as Executive Director of the Organization, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Organization and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

I further certify that Rick Dunne now holds the office of Executive Director and that he/she has held that office since 1/3/2005.

I am signing this certificate on 2/9/2018.


_____, Secretary
Signature

SEAL