



Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2015 Regular Meeting

Mr. Gray **called the meeting to order** at 9:04, noting that a quorum (Ashford, Brooklyn, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, and Sterling) was present. He started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The **September 205 Minutes** were approved as presented on a motion by Ms. Nicholson and a second by Mr. Hallbergh.

During **Public Participation** Steve Lynch from the Eastern Connecticut Resource recovery Authority discussed opportunities for the member towns and that he would like the opportunity to meet with those that are interested.

Mr. Gray introduced **Robert Smanik, President and CEO of Day Kimball Hospital**, speaking on the Governor's recent reductions and the impacts to the hospital and the Region. Mr. Smanik detailed that the impacts imposed by the Governor would have a devastating impact on DKH and the Region. He noted that the impacts are both economic and health related. From an economic standpoint, DKH is the largest employer in the Region and a significant buyer of local services and goods. Most importantly he noted is the potential adverse impacts to the health and well being of the people served by DKH. A reduction or shutdown would diminish (greatly) access to health care causing some to go without the services needed and others to spend much more to access health care. He summarized the actions taken by DKH to mitigate the impacts of the reductions - including wage freezes, staff reductions and a task force looking at the selling of DKH properties. He informed the Council that DKH, as part of the Connecticut Hospital Association, was lobbying hard to restore funding. He noted that he was working closely with the northeast legislative delegation on the matter. Members expressed their support and urged Mr. Smanik to not hesitate in contacting NECCOG or the individual towns for help. **The members noted that DKH must be a legislative priority.**

Director's Report - John Filchak, Executive Director

- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Study** - Poor response to the survey initially - Fitch, our consultant, came up last weekend to fill in the missing elements. Much thanks to Jeff Otto for his work in gaining responses and continued work on the study.
- Route 169 Management Plan Update** - Plan is moving forward with two public workshops (Woodstock and Lisbon). The study is examining the extent east and west that the 169 management plan should cover and extending it south to Norwich and north to Southbridge.
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan** - The Plan has now been approved by DEHMS and sent to FEMA for final action.
- Trap, Neuter and Release Program** - To date, we have successfully addressed more than two hundred feral cats. Approximately fifty percent (100 cats) trapped were females. The average number of litters a fertile cat produces is one to two a year with the average litter being from four to six kittens. The range of cats that could result from just one of these feral cats is between 100 and 5,000 during a seven year period. This means that we may have already prevented the introduction of between 10,000 and 500,000 feral cats in a seven year period. While we cannot know for sure the exact number - high or low the impacts are significant.

- LED Streetlight Workshop** - the September 29th workshop was well attended and this may be an area for a regional approach - especially for our smaller towns. On a related note, Transit has had its lighting evaluated and will be converting a significant number of them to LED - resulting in a projected 45% savings.
- Regional Revaluation** - A new RFP has been issued for the Regional Reval Program. This was necessitated by the withdrawal of both Putnam and Killingly. Killingly had indicated, after the September meeting, that they would participate. However, after further consideration they chose to remove themselves from the Program. Why re-bid? I consulted with our legal counsel at Shipman and Goodwin. It was their opinion that the non-participation of Killingly in particular with their 7,300 parcels constituted a material change to the RFP. If this was a material change, NECCOG could be open to a bid challenge and possible court action. Such a course is not in the best interests of the organization of its member towns - accordingly we re-bid. RFP responses are due by November 6 and our intent is to call a special meeting on November 13 to select the vendor. Work is expected to begin on or about December 1, 2015. This is not much different than 2010 when due to the negotiations with the contract we had to wait on the start till nearly January.

Mr. Sweet **questioned the re-issuance of the RFP** and made a motion that the RFP not be re-issued - Mr. Syme seconded that motion. The motion passed on a 7-3 vote (2 abstentions, Putnam and Killingly).

- Transportation** - As part of the Governors Lets Go CT program, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is expanding and improving the existing STP Rural Major/Minor Collector Program as a way to provide additional assistance to the rural areas of the state. The modified program includes two main points:
 - INCREASES the amount of STP-Rural funds available to the COG's from \$1.0 million to \$2.0 million per year.
 - DECREASES the local match from 20% to 10%.
 - town-owned roadways
 - Minimum project cost is \$500,000
 - up to two projects will be entertained each year in each region
 - The town must forward this information to their respective COG for prioritization
 - Certain types of safety activities are eligible for 100% federal funding. These include traffic control signalization, pavement markings, rail highway crossings, guiderail installation/upgrades, impact attenuators, breakaway utility poles and priority control systems for emergency vehicles at signalized intersections.
 - Updating the LRTP and adding projects
- The Director also informed the Council that a new position, Engineering Technician, is being created and will soon be advertised.
- The Director reminded the members that the **Annual Meeting is December 18**

Regional Referrals

- a. **Town of Brooklyn, Gravel Removal Application SP15-008 - withdrawn**

- b. **Town of Plainfield**, Zoning Text Amendment Z2015-0783, Section 1.2 and 8.2 Permitted Uses in Commercial Districts - **Endorsed as having No Regional Impact**, Motion by mr. Sweet, second by Mr. Syme.

Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPI) Preliminary Discussion

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Route 169 Marketing Plan</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Regional HHW Site</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pre-Hospital Emergency Service Implementation</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Shared Trail Maintenance Equipment</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Human Resource Management</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Land Use Planning</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cattery</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Technology and information</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Land Use Inspection/ Enforcement</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ag Value-Added Feasibility Study</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Stormwater Management</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Back-Office Functions</i> |

The Director briefly reviewed the RPI Program and the above initiatives. The members will review and act on their priorities at a later meeting.

CEO Roundtable

There was a brief discussion regarding homelessness.

Adjourn motion by Mr. Falzarano and a second by Mr. Sweet