



necog



Northeastern Connecticut
Transit District

Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2017

Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson, Union, Voluntown and Woodstock were represented

Mr. Ives **opened the meeting** at 8:37 am

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was conducted

Previous Meeting Minutes (September 2017) were adopted as presented on a motion from Mr. Syme and a second from Mr. Piper

Public Participation - John Sarantopolis of Killingly read a statement regarding unfunded liabilities

On a motion from Mr. Walker and a second by Mr. Syme the **agenda was amended** to reflect the changes shown in the amended agenda adding a regional referral from Killingly, a STIP amendment concerning the TAP project in Pomfret, and a proposed transit Bylaw change - approved by consent

Director's Report:

- Regional Animal Services** - No significant issues, allegation that we are routinely non responsive and that there is dissatisfaction with program. No such reports - 96% same day response record during the most recent month - typical
- Transit District Operations** - Ridership is steady. Vehicles are showing their age - forth one now having a new engine. Multiple requests to CONNDOT - no response. I will be meeting with the director of transit in two weeks.
- Regional Revaluation Program** - Moving along as scheduled
- Regional Paramedic Program** - transports are up, but no issues - seems to be working quite well with the new vendor KB
- Concrete Foundations** - with the passage of the budget there is finally some relief for those impacted - \$20 m per year
 - Creates a not-for-profit captive insurance company ("captive") to help homeowners repair or replace crumbling concrete foundations with the lowest possible amount of borrowed funds

- Creates the Collapsing Foundations Credit Enhancements Program, administered by CHFA, to help homeowners obtain additional funding necessary to replace or repair crumbling concrete foundations
- Requires municipalities to waive application fees (regardless of any conflicting municipal charters, home rule ordinances, or special acts) and the State Building Inspector to waive education fees for building permit applications to repair or replace crumbling concrete foundations
- Requires personal risk insurance policies (e.g., homeowners) and certain condominium master and property insurance policies to allow suit against insurers for up to one year after the date the insured receives a written denial for all or any part of a claim under a property coverage provision for a crumbling concrete foundation
- Establishes a special homeowner advocate within DoH

DEMHS Region 4 Activities - Natural Hazard Mitigation update - NECCOG participation

Transportation Projects and Program - TAP project in Pomfret/Putnam is still in play despite reports that Pomfret has taken some action to not fund it. They wanted to wait for the budget to be passed. CONNDOT and DEEP want to see this project happen.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - public meetings begin next week and will happen through December. Held meeting with DECD regarding economic development and hope to improve dialogue on some key issues including transportation and training. CERC has awarded the Heirloom Restaurant and the Thompson Branding initiative their 2017 regional awards - presented at the Bushnell in Hartford.

State Budget - There are funds for the COGs in the Budget - special thanks to Cathy Osten for fighting for these - \$2.7 m which is a reduction from the current (hypothetical) \$5 m. We do not know how the funds will be divided - we do know that there will be a reduction of some significance on top of the double reduction we experience last fiscal year. OPM is pledging to provide guidance shortly. In terms of RPIP - there appears to be a language issue in the Budget that makes things very much unclear. Also, we are not sure if our current awards were swept - we have held off access these for that reason.

ACIR Update - Commission wants to explore a range of regionalism issues - including revisiting the consolidation of public health departments.

Property Purchase - First, special thanks to Sean Hendricks for steering this through the Town's processes. Killingly, as required by their charter, will have a hearing on October 30 regarding the sale. We have initiated actions to have an A-2 survey completed, USDA finding and other due diligence actions.

Discussion and Action Items

1. Regional Referrals

- a. Town of Killingly, Zone Text Change 17-1181, Text Amendments to Section 560 and 310 addressing Earth Removal - **approved unanimously, motion by Mr. Sweet and a second by Mr. Beausoleil**

2. STIP Actions/Amendments
 - a. Project #0111-0124, Town of Pomfret - AIR LINE TRAIL BIKE/PED IMPROVEMENTS - Construction - \$3,999,000 - **approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Piper and a second by Mr. Falzarano**
3. UPWP Amendment - Resolution 10-1-17 - **Mr. Brodeur moved, Mr. Piper second - passed unanimously**
4. UPWP Time Sheet Authorization Resolution - 10-2-17 - **Mr. Falzarano moved, Mr. Piper second - passed unanimously**
5. 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) - staff recommendation is to not participate there is no advantage individually or collectively to participate. Mr. Larkin added that the Census use point data for address confirmation and have three different options to participate, paper maps and spreadsheets to confirm where you know addresses are, or send digital maps, of their version of their software which is compatible with the common ESRI software used by NECCOG. Census is trying to use the towns to make it easier for them, they don't want to miss anybody. Mr. Syme: asked why can't they use the 911 list? Mr. Larkin stated that Census still has its own data and that their request was completely optional, no penalty. **no action taken.**
6. Transit Bylaw Update - **approved on a motion by Mr. Brodeur, second by Mr. Beausoleil to move the re-write forward**
7. State Budget Status - general discussion and a consensus that while there is general relief that the immediate issues of the Budget is resolved - that the legislature will be back at the issue with much the same (if not worse) numbers than the present situation.
8. Chief-Elected Officials Roundtable - Mr. Walker stated that he wanted to say how much I've enjoyed working with NECCOG for last 10 years and will encourage next person to continue. That he entered the animal control program and many other programs, and that the regional approach is still the way towns need to look at things. He noted that he enjoyed his time doing this and at first he didn't know what NECCOG does and now he thinks ours is the best in the state. Mr. Sweet echoed Allan, thanked for his time and for all the work NECCOG does. Mr. Piper echoed Allan as well about NECCOG being the best to work with internally and externally. Still work to be done within NECCOG and keep the projects going. Mr. Brodeur stated he had been here 6 years and his time has been beneficial with NECCOG.

Adjourn - Mr. Piper motion to adjourn Mr. Syme second at 9:27am