



neccog



Northeastern Connecticut
Transit District

Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2018

Rick Ives, NECCOG Chair opened the meeting at 8:30 am

Towns in attendance: Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Woodstock

The Pledge of Allegiance was made

The October 2017 and December 2017 (Annual Meeting) **Meeting Minutes were accepted as presented** on a motion from Mr. Syme and a second from Mr. Cahill

There was no Public Participation

John Filchak, Executive Director presented his month report:

Program Updates

- Animal Services - Fewer animals but investigations are steady
- Paramedic Intercept - Running very well by all accounts - KB Annual Report
- Regional Reval - Still some confusion regarding invoices
- Airline Trail Project in Pomfret - moving forward

Transit District Operations - Last year we increased ridership by 5.4%, Depart of Transportation states that without an increase in revenues to the Special Transportation Fund there will be a 15% cut next fiscal year followed by a 505 reduction. There is also discussion of consolidating the 15 public transit districts under one management or at least the smaller ones - this could include the privatization of transit.

125 Putnam Pike Purchase - Background -lease, \$282,000 purchase - A-2 Survey is now almost complete and we are awaiting the final report. We are now trying to locate the well at the shelter as it may be in the building

Crumbling Foundations - no change = testing is moving forward and more people are now making their issue official. Many of the new elements that were in the new budget are still being worked on for implementation.

DEMHS Region 4 Activities - no significant issues

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - Nearing a final product which we expect for the February meeting. A variety of of groups and individuals have been reviewing the document and providing their comments.

2018-19 Assessments - no increases those that are not participating in a current program are welcome and he offered discuss this with those that are interested

- ❑ ACIR - Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations - he noted that ACIR meets monthly membership is diverse town, regional, private (CCM), state agencies and legislators. This group is examining additional efficiencies in the delivery of state and local services.
- ❑ Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth - He reported that he gave testimony to this group on regionalism (copy in their packet). He will be providing additional testimony regarding the use of county government and the option of county equivalency for regional COGs.
- ❑ CONNDOT Commissioner Visit - He discussed the upcoming visit by the Commissioner and urged all towns to attend or send a representative.
- ❑ Legislative Meeting - shortly after the governor presents his budget 9th or sometime the week after

Discussion and Action Items

1. Regional Referrals

- a. Town of Chaplin, Zoning Text Amendments - Building on Lots of Record, Basic Requirements, Dimensional Requirements, Definitions, General Requirements, Special Permits and Miscellaneous After an explanation by Mr. Filchak as to the nature of the amendments and their regional impact a motion from **Mr. Syme to approve and second from Ms. Nicholson voted unanimously.**

2. STIP Amendments/Actions

- a. Project #0111-0122, Pomfret - REPLACE BR 02339 O/ BARK MEADOW BROOK, Construction, 2018 \$1,423,000 - INCREASE ESTIMATE FROM FED \$840K
 - b. Project #0123-0066, Scotland - REPLACE BR 00681 o/ MERRICK BROOK, 2018 \$200,000 - New Project
 - c. Project #0123-0066, Scotland - REPLACE BR 00681 o/ MERRICK BROOK, 2018 ROW, \$50,000 - New Project
- After an explanation by Mr. Filchak as to the nature of the Amendments/Actions **Mr. Gray motioned to approve and Ms. Nicholson second - approved unanimously**

3. Resolution 18-1-1 - Naming Christopher Lippke of Canterbury to represent NECCOG on the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) Chief Elected Officials Oversight Council

4. Resolution 18-1-2, Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and management for the 2018 Regional Services Grant Program.

5. Resolution 18-1-3, Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into all grants by and between the Connecticut Department of Transportation and NECCOG.

6. Resolution 18-1-4, Authorizing the removal of Allan Walker and Arthur Brodeur and the addition of Russell Gray of Sterling and Maureen Nicholson of Pomfret to be signatories for all NECCOG/NECTD bank transactions in accordance with the Bylaws of each organization.

Motion to Block Vote in the affirmative Items 3,4,5 and 6 by Mr. Alberts and seconded by Mr. Syme - approved unanimously

7.New Programs/Services

Mr. Filchak overviewed the material regarding potential new programs.

Human Services/Veterans Affairs Advocate

- Mr. Seney agreed with looking at combining a veteran's and social services position since the hours for one town don't always add up to a full time position, he assumes 3-4 towns at least would be needed for a full time staff person.
- Mr. Ives stated Brooklyn would be in favor as well.
- Mary Calorio asked if this position would include the agent for the elderly and Mr. Filchak responded, "yes".
- Mr Seney remarked Putnam is in favor and asked if enough towns get involved, if the person in the new position would rotate?
- Mary Calorio stated it would make sense for the person to be based in one location to allow a better understanding of who to contact and when.
- Ms. Hansen agreed it makes sense to have one person as a contact for these services.
- Mr. Griffiths asked if NECCOG had the space for another staff member and Mr. Filchak replied, "yes".
- Ms. DuBois asked if a list could be compiled of what services exactly would be provided to the towns by someone in this position and Mr Filchak said the person would be required to have knowledge of all the services welcome to and can get a more detailed description of the position out.
- Ms. Nicholson asked if NECCOG needs 100% participation from each town and Mr. Filchak replied that it will be addressed accordingly depending which towns may be interested in which programs that suits their needs.
- Mr. Alberts stated Woodstock has a strong veteran who currently volunteers their time for support now, but Woodstock would be interested in the Social Services piece.
- Mr. Filchak stated he can get a proposal together with necessary qualification within the next week and a half.

Land Use Inspector

- Mr. Hendricks asked to define the role of the land use inspector more in depth and Mr. Filchak responded.

Shared Planner

- Mr. Alberts stated the shared planner and regional assessor is something Woodstock would be very interested in.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

- Mr. Syme stated Scotland would be interested in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection since they currently have to go to Willington.

Regional Housing Authority

- Mr. Filchak brought up the option for Regional Housing Authority and stated as a region, we are way under the average in affordable housing availability. He also stated in relation to back office

functions, Franklin County COG in MA addressed back office function successfully for 26 towns by regionalizing the towns' related work and produced a lot of savings.

Ms. Nicholson asked Mr. Filchak if it would be helpful for each town to prioritize which regional service/ program they are most interested in and Mary Calorio suggested everyone e-mail their top priority choices to Mr. Filchak by the end of next week and then Mr. Filchak can get back to each town official with the results and go from there.

8. 2018 Legislative Session Priorities - not discussed

9. Chief-Elected officials Roundtable - not conducted

Adjourned - Mr. Alberts moved to adjourn and Mr. Grey second, meeting adjourned at 9:35am.