



NECCOG

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

Ashford - Brooklyn - Canterbury - Chaplin - Eastford - Hampton - Killingly - Plainfield -
Pomfret - Putnam - Scotland - Sterling - Thompson - Union - Voluntown - Woodstock

Results through Regionalism

September 23, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

Tracy Hanson, NECCOG Chair **opened the meeting at 9:33.** The **Chair noted that there was a quorum present** (Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Putnam, Sterling, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Woodstock)

- The Chair asked for **action on the August 2022 Meeting minutes** - on a **motion from Mr. Seney and a second by Mr. Cunningham they were approved unanimously as presented**
- The Chair asked if persons at the meeting or virtually had any comments - none were made
- As this was a Special Meeting no items were added to the agenda

The Chair introduced the Executive Director - John Filchak to provide his **monthly report** to the Council. Mr. Filchak reported the following:

Transit Activities - The Director reported that ridership on the Deviated/Fixed Route was trending in a positive direction however, the Elderly/Disabled service continues at much lower ridership then before the pandemic. The Director stated that this population has found reliable alternative rides and delivery services to meet their needs. He announced that the Plainfield Pilot will be a permanent route and that CONNDOT had incorporated it into NECTD's funding..

Animal Services Program - The Director noted that the program has seen an increase in Investigations and seizures of farm animals. He noted that holding these animals has increased costs (feed, boarding and veterinarian care). Additionally, courts are routinely waiving holding fees due to recent economy hardships. The Director reported that TNRM has slowed as a result of most veterinarians limiting the number of cats to three. Finally, he reported that there had been a break-in at the Norwich shelter with one dog being stolen. He reported that the Norwich Police Department responded immediately - apprehending the persons responsible and returning the dog to the shelter. Mr. Filchak further noted that the Norwich Police have been very helpful in all aspects of our operations for the City.

Paramedic Intercept Program - The Director reported that July numbers (the most recent available) showed 342 transports, local municipalities paid for 219.

Crumbling Foundations - The Director reported that there are now 600 families back in their homes or condominiums with restored and secure foundations as a result of CFSIC actions. There is also the expectation that the program will reach 1,000 homes in the next 18 months.

Transportation Projects and Planning - A brief update was made regarding pending LOTCIP projects

- The Director ask the towns to please fill out the questionnaire sent to them regarding their designated ADA director by September 30, 2022.
- He noted that a public hearing regarding the proposed update for the State Rail Plan with the Transportation Committee of the CT General Assembly September 30, 2022.

STEAP - The Director reported that the region had received \$31.3 million in STEAP grants

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund- The Director informed the Council that they can seek up to \$250,000 to fund climate resilience planning.

Member Town Assistance was overview briefly.

COVID Recovery EDA/DECD Grant - He reported that this program is now in full operation.

- Survey sent out 100 plus individuals/organizations regarding COVID Recovery Economic Development Regional.
- Public Meeting to Discuss findings October 12 - Ashford Town Hall, October 17 - Canterbury Town Hall, October 18 - Putnam Town Hall

Long Range Transportation Plan - was reported to be in its final draft stages and will be released for review and comment in October.

Finally, the Director made the Council aware of the **CT Green Snow Pro for municipal Applicators Training** October 20, 2022 Newton, CT. October 27, 2022 Ellington, CT. and the **IJA SMART Grant** will support range of approaches: new transportation applications of existing and emerging technologies.

Presentations

- **The Honorable Robert J. Devlin, Jr., Inspector General - Office of the Inspector General** - Introduce his newly created office to the Council and described its form and function - specifically that it was created as a result of the new Police Accountability law enacted in 2020.
- **Kyle Kramer - Chief Executive Officer and Robert Viens, Chief Pharmacy Officer for Day Kimball Hospital** - provided an account of the financial challenges confronting DKH and why they are seeking to partner with another health provider. He did note that almost all hospitals are in a similar situation large and small. In part, he noted that the insurance reimbursements - especially Medicare - have not kept pace with the cost of providing care. Mr. Kramer assured the Council that the proposed partnership will not change the patient-doctor relation at DKH and that the services they now provide will all be maintained. He further note the need to upgrade the electronic medical records system to enable it to communicate with other providers.

3. Discussion and Action Items

a. Regional Referrals

1. Town of Ashford, Proposed Zoning Amendment, Section Z-2022-98
2. Town Brooklyn, Proposed Request In Zoning Regulations, Section 2.B:3.C2.4 New 7: New 6.T

A motion to approve items1-2 made by Mr. Cunningham, Seconded Mr Seney - approved unanimously as presented

b. STIP Amendments/Actions -

1. Project #0170-3639, Statewide - Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project - AC Entry, 2023 - New Project
2. Project #0170-3639, Statewide - Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project - AC Conversion, 2023 - New Project, Fd \$3,136, ST \$784, Total \$3,920
3. Project #0170-3639, Statewide - Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project - AC Conversion, 2024 - New Project, Fd \$3,488. ST \$872, Total \$4,360
4. Project #0170-3639, Statewide - Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project - AC Conversion, FYI - New Project, Fd \$9,144, ST \$2,286, Total \$11,430
5. Project #0062-0096, Hampton - Replace BR 02591 o/ Fuller Brook , 2022, Fed \$52,000, ST \$13,000, Total \$65,000
6. Project #0141-0157, Thompson - Replace BR 02128 o/Sunset Hill Brook, 2022, Fed \$66,000, ST \$16,000, Total \$82,000
7. Project #0170-3633, Statewide - Asset Management Group - New Project, 2023 - Fd \$2,512, ST \$628, Total \$3,140
8. Project #0170-3635, Statewide - Bridge Management Group - New Project, 2023 - Fd \$1,920, ST \$480, Total \$2,400
9. Project #0170-3636, Statewide - Pavement Management Group - New Project, 2023 - Fd \$1,920, ST \$480, Total \$2,400

Motion to approve items 1-9 Made by Mr. Seney and Seconded by Mr Cahill - approved unanimously as presented

- e. New Regional Initiatives Discussion for RPIP Applications (Concepts to be acted on at the October meeting)
 - i. Regional or Shared Town Administration Feasibility/Implementation Analysis
 - ii. Regional or Shared Assessor Services Feasibility/Implementation Analysis
 - iii. Regional or Shared Finance Services Feasibility/Implementation Analysis
 - iv. Town Consolidation and/or Enhanced Regionalization Analysis
 - v. Regional Fire and Ambulance Assessment and Suggestions for Collaboration

Mr. Filchak explained that the five subjects covered are ones often discussed by the Council. What he ask was consensus to move forward with developing these as grant applications - with a vote on each in October.

Council members agreed.

f. **CEO Roundtable**

- Discussion regarding the new Thompson and Putnam shared Ambulance and Fire Service.
- Addressing the ongoing opioid crisis with prevention and education - what to do with the new funds

4. **Adjourn - 10:53 am** Motion made by Mr. Seney, Seconded by Mr. Cunningham - **passed unanimously.**