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Executive Directors Report – March 2025

1. **Animal Control**

* The major case in Woodstock ruling was in our favor including releasing the custody of the animals to us and a monetary award to cover our expenses for caring for the 100 or so animals. Unfortunately, the defendant has filed an appeal, and we will await the judge’s determination. We are waiting for the next hearing, expected in April. We have hired additional kennel cleaners to address the heavy workload. We have fostered some (about 20) of the dogs out to other animal control facilities.
* The second large Woodstock case is still working through the courts, a hearing is scheduled in early April.
* We are applying for a grant to purchase body cameras and data retention.

1. **Transit District**

* WRTD shared a demonstration of their maintenance inspection platform ZONAR. We are evaluating various platforms to automate tracking, scheduling and maintaining our fleet. The platform we select will include an outward facing tool for riders to view the location of buses. We are meeting bi-monthly with Lisa Rivers, who is the State Bus Transit Chief, to discuss various issues including the renovation of our facility. I spoke with Peter Montana, State of CT transit facilities project manager, and we are still waiting for the contractor to begin the assessment of our facility, which should start any day.

1. **Regional Town Administrator**

* Jordan Lumpkins started with us on March 17th and immediately began meeting with Town Leaders, staff, and board members to better understand the needs for each of the participating towns. Mary Calorio will begin in May. Several other Towns are evaluating their needs for shared administration. NECCOG has capacity for others to join and will add more capacity if the need presents itself. If there are specific needs such as HR or Grant Administration for your Town, please reach out to me.

1. **Regional Revaluation**

* The Contracts are signed by all Towns and the work should begin, starting in Woodstock. I have sent the payment schedule to all Town leaders. The first of five equal payments is due on July 1, 2025. Thanks to everyone for helping to complete this.

1. **Outreach**

* My monthly appearances continued on WINY, my regular time is 9am first Fridays of the Month.
* I have met a number of our Town Leaders, I have several more to go.
* We are reaching out to many of the Towns that are not in the GIS program, which has substantial value to Towns as it is subsidized by other grants. I encourage all of you to take a good look at that program, it would be very beneficial to have all Towns in this program.
* Jim Larkin and I made a presentation to Pomfret to complete the POCD update.
* I have been attending quite a few CT COG leaders meetings concerning the upcoming State budget, there a number of COG related initiatives to expand services, some with funding to back them up.

1. **Legislative Update**

* I have sent a letter from NECCOG out to the Governor concerning Health Dept funding, as discussed at the last COG meeting.
* We are still months away from real fiscal answers concerning State funding to Towns. There are many variables that can change the budget from now until then.
* The one bright spot in the budget is more funding for regional programs, specifically there is $250k yearly for each COG fund two positions to work on climate resiliency (inventory, assessment and mapping of drainage systems, hazardous mitigation), waste management, recycling, GIS etc... In addition, there is another proposal for another (3rd position) to be funded by the Regional Incentive fund, for a regional building official/architect/planner to inventory, evaluate, determine, support the repurpose of vacant structures for conversion to housing, in each region. This is still in flux.