



MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Naugatuck City Hall, Commissioner's Corner Meeting Room

229 Church Street

Naugatuck, CT 06770

10 a.m., Friday, February 20, 2015

NVCOG Representatives, Alternates & Proxies: Sheila O'Malley, Proxy, Ansonia; Chris Bielik, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ken Cockayne, Mayor, Bob Flanagan, Alternate, Bristol; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Bob Mezzo, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; David Merchant, Mayor, Plymouth; Tom Galvin, Alternate, Prospect; Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Seymour; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Ed Edelson, First Selectman, John Monteleone, Alternate, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Kevin DelGobbo, Alternate, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Bill Butterly, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Speakers/Guests/Other: Edgar Wynkoop, CTDOT.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Pat Gallagher, Aaron Budris, Glenda Prentiss, Arthur Bogen, Clare Falcha, Sean Kelleher, Lauren Rizzo.

1. Roll Call, Public Comment

Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Executive Director Rick Dunne called the roll. A quorum was present. There was no public comment.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the January 16, 2015 NVCOG Regular Meeting

On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 16, 2015 NVCOG regular meeting.

3. Financial Reports

- a. *VCOG Finance Report*
- b. *COGCNV Finance Report*
- c. *NVCOG Finance Report*

Clare Falcha reviewed the three finance reports and she and Rick Dunne answered questions about them.

On a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Kurt Miller, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the financial reports for VCOG, COGCNV, and NVCOG.

4. Recommendations from the Executive Committee

- a. *Amendments and Adoption of Bylaws* – Rick Dunne said there were two changes recommended by the Executive Committee. The first would reduce the number of Executive Committee members from 10 to 9 and, if adopted, would require an existing member to step away. The second recommendation would eliminate the requirement for legislative confirmation of alternates.

Mr. Dunne said state statute does permit permanent alternates. In the original bylaws, the alternate was to be designated by the representative and approved by the local legislative body, but this presented problems. The proposal from the Executive Committee would eliminate the confirmation. Mr. Dunne stated that, if approved, staff would send letters to the municipalities, identifying the representative statutorily, and asking that a letter be addressed to the Chairman designating an alternate. Proxies would also be available if neither the representative nor his designated alternate are available to attend an NVCOG meeting. The alternate or proxy must be associated with the municipality, either an elected official or employed. Mr. Dunne said that in some municipalities there is no chief elected official by statute and the legislative body is not the board of selectman; in those cases a process must be determined for designation of representatives as well as alternates, and that issue will be addressed. However, at this point, the recommendation from the Executive Committee was to adopt the reduction in members of the Executive Committee, to eliminate the requirement for legislative confirmation of alternates, and to adopt the Bylaws, as amended, in full.

George Temple questioned whether it would be better to reduce the number of Executive Committee members now or effective with the next term. Following discussion, on a motion by Len Assard, seconded by Ken Cockayne, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the recommendation of the Executive Committee to adopt the NVCOG Bylaws, as revised, as the official bylaws of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

- b. *Review and Approval of NVCOG Executive Director Employment Agreement* – Kevin DelGobbo distributed the latest version of the employment agreement. He said that from discussion at the last meeting there appeared to be no disagreement with the employment agreement's general terms. There had been a request that the Executive Director's specific goals be appended to the agreement, and that was part of the agreement they now had before them. Salary and the retirement benefit had been renegotiated. The Executive Committee had decided to adjust the pension contribution amount to be more in pattern with that of the other employees and to adjust salary in a way to make up that difference, so the net effect would be to make the executive director whole at least in terms of what he had been getting with regard to the pension portion. Ed Edelson asked about the pension percentage amount selected. Mr. Dunne stated that the former COGCNV employees had a seniority based sliding scale pension plan while the former VCOG employees had a plan based on a straight 8%.

Bill Butterly inquired if the salary was now higher than that for which it had been advertised. Mr. DelGobbo said it was, but that the benefits package had not been identified within it. Mr. Butterly said he recalled discussion concerning the pension contribution amount, but did not recall talk about salary adjustment. Ed Edelson said he thought it was the compromise that people felt comfortable with. Ed St. John said he believed this was the reason the Executive Committee was now bringing this to the full board. Mr. Butterly reiterated that this had been a decision of the Executive Committee, not the full board. Mr. St. John said it was now up to the full board to weigh in and decide. Ed Mone said it was the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Tom Galvin said the terms had been negotiated in good faith, and that the total compensation would still be the same. Ed Mone said this had been discussed in Executive Session at the last meeting and was before the full board now. Ed St. John said his memory was that the terms had gone back and forth and no one had totally objected to having the pension

amount equated back into salary, rather than going with a pension percentage for the Executive Director that was higher than that of the other employees. He stated he believed that the Executive Committee had been empowered to look at the situation, and while he himself had some issues with the terms of the employment agreement, the committee's decision should be respected, and he felt the best effort had been made to resolve the matter.

On a motion by Kurt Miller, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the NVCOG proposed Executive Director employment agreement and 2015 goals.

Let it be noted that Mr. Butterly stated that, for the record, the Chair should request nays and abstentions for each vote. He affirmed that he was not voting nay in this issue.

- c. *Approval of the 2015 NVCOG Regular Meeting Schedule* – Following a brief discussion on the starting time of the meetings, on a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Ed Mone, with Sheila O'Malley of Ansonia voting no, it was

VOTED: To adopt the Executive Committee recommendation approving the 2015 regular meeting schedule for NVCOG and the NVCOG RPC.

5. **Update on Assignment of Contracts**

Rick Dunne explained that over the next six months or so there would be a series of assignments of agreements from the old agencies to the new agency. CTDOT had requested the name of the grantee for State Project #36-179, Federal Aid Project #TCSP(003), which is building a northbound entrance ramp on Route 8 at Division Street on the Ansonia-Derby line, be changed from VCOG to NVCOG and that Executive Director Rick Dunne be authorized to sign. CTDOT had requested a resolution putting the entire project into the name of the new entity. They would not accept the blanket authorizations previously adopted.

On a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Chris Bielik, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the resolution for the Sixth Supplemental Agreement for State Project #36-179, Federal Aid Project #TCSP(003), change the name of the grantee to "Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments," and empower the Executive Director to execute.

Ed Edelson asked, whether issues of this matter could be delegated to the Executive Committee and then the full board could be informed, as he could not imagine a situation in which the board would ever say no to something like this, and it would expedite things. Rick Dunne said the full board had already delegated this item to the Chairman and him, however, in this case, the grantor would not accept it without a resolution of the full board.

6. **Endorsement of RPIP Statewide Aerial Imaging Flight Resolution**

Glenda Prentiss said NVCOG-TEC previously endorsed this project proposal via a motion at its December 12, 2014 meeting. However, OPM wishes to have a formal resolution of endorsement. The proposal from CRCOG to act as the sponsor and implementing agency is based on a statewide agreement reached by CTCOG at its November 20, 2014 meeting. CRCOG, in partnership with all

nine RPOs, will be the lead in submitting a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant application for statewide orthophotography and LIDAR data.

On a motion by Len Assard, seconded by Mark Lauretti, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Resolution #2015-04 to endorse the Capitol Region's Council of Governments' proposal for funding through the Regional Performance Incentive Program for a single, statewide flight to collect aerial imagery, as referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s (2014 supplement).

7. Endorsement of Woodbury's DEEP Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition Grant Program Application (for the preservation of the former Woodbury Reservoir and Aquarion Property)

Aaron Budris explained that Woodbury has requested a support letter from NVCOG for its DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program application. NVCOG staff finds the preservation of the property as open space to be in conformity with the COGCNV Plan of Conservation and Development. It is staff's opinion that the preservation of the Woodbury Reservoir Property is regionally significant in safeguarding unprotected open space and providing recreational opportunities for the region's residents.

On a motion by Ed Edelson, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the Town of Woodbury's efforts to preserve the Woodbury Reservoir Property as open space, and direct the Executive Director to submit a letter of support for Woodbury's OSWA grant application.

Ed St. John, Kevin DelGobbo, and Bill Butterly spoke briefly about legislation concerning water company property.

8. Other

Bill Butterly spoke about the Secretary of State's registrar proposal. It was requested that this item be added to the next agenda.

Kevin DelGobbo spoke about the Governor's budget and the indication that there will be a significant speedup of the signalization project for the rail line service. He deemed it a great success for NVCOG.

9. Adjournment

At 10:55 a.m., on a motion by Len Assard, seconded by Sheila O'Malley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant
for
Ken Cockayne, Secretary