

VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Railroad Station, 12 Main St., Derby, CT 06418

Ph. (203)735-8688 _ Fax (203)735-8680

VCOG MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

11:30 a.m.

at VCOG Offices

AGENDA

(*Amended 11/9/07)

(Pledge of Allegiance)

1. **Public Session**
2. **Acceptance of Minutes of 10/10/07 Meeting (Enc.)**
3. **Treasurer's Report (Enc.)**
4. ***Presentation by CT Coalition to Eradicate Lyme Disease – 1st Sel.
Natalie Ketcham, Redding and Dr. Georgina Scholl**
5. **Correspondence**
6. **Authorization for Executive Director and Counsel to Sign FFY '07
Certifications & Assurances for FTA Assistance Program (Enc.)**
7. **Discussion on Justice Assistance Grant for Local Law Enforcement
(JAGLLE) Program (Enc.)**
8. **Discussion/Action on Regional Performance Incentive Program
Application (Enc.)**
9. **Authorization for Extension of Maturity Date – Brownfields RLF,
Cook Industrial Associates, LLC (Enc.)**
10. **Discussion/Approval – Brownfields RLF Application, 46 Commerce St.,
Derby**

Note: A light lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m.

**MINUTES OF MEETING
VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Wednesday, November 14, 2007
at VCOG Offices**

Persons Present:

Mayor James Della Volpe, Ansonia
First Selectman Robert Koskelowski, Seymour
Mayor Mark Lauretti, Shelton (arrived at 12:10 p.m.)
Sheila O'Malley, City of Derby
Dr. Georgina Scholl, CT Coalition to Eradicate Lyme Disease
Daniel Waleski, Derby
Lauren Garrison, NH Register
Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff
Clare Falcha “
Jan Jadach “

Chairman Koskelowski called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The Chairman then asked if anyone wished to speak during the public session. Mr. Daniel Waleski of Derby asked to speak. After congratulating the CEOs on their re-election, he spoke briefly regarding eminent domain. No one else asked to speak and the public session was closed.

Rick Dunne informed the CEOs that Mayor Lauretti had indicated he will be here but he will be late as he is coming from a meeting in Waterbury. The Chairman then went directly to the Treasurer's Report which did not require a vote since there was no quorum at this time.

Treasurer's Report – Rick Dunne informed the members that we are currently running about \$50,000 ahead in revenues at this time. This is because of an increase in funding from the state and the budget decisions we made in terms of staffing which means there is a built-in \$26,000 surplus in the current budget. Sometime after the beginning of the year, we should be evening out that imbalance. There were no questions.

Correspondence – Rick Dunne noted that there is one item he would like to take up under correspondence. He went on to say that contracts came in on the Safe Routes to School Program. Since the agenda had already gone out, he had Mr. Elder prepare a memo on this. He spoke to the COG members about this previously. This is the program that stresses safe walking routes to grammar schools. Rick said that, as you can see from Dave Elder's memo, he has been in contact with the four superintendents of schools (in the case of Seymour, the assistant superintendent) and they are reviewing the program materials. He then gave the Chairman the agreements to sign, indicating he is the individual authorized to sign these. The contracts will give VCOG \$12,000 to conduct the planning for this activity and it is a transportation-funded project. The project is for VCOG to conduct the planning; we will use some of the \$12,000 for our staff to do the mapping portion of it. The planning will be conducted by the school systems, and we will reimburse them out of the \$12,000 for their time in developing the plan. Rick went on to say that David will have further updates for the Mayors following his return as he is on his honeymoon this week. Rick said he just wanted to inform the Mayors of the status of this program and to have the Chairman sign the contracts. There were no questions.

The Chairman continued with the agenda, asking Dr. Scholl if she wished to make her presentation at this time. She chose to wait until Mayor Lauretti arrived. It was decided to skip any items requiring a vote until a quorum was present.

Discussion on Justice Assistant Grant for Local Law Enforcement (JAGLLE) Program –

Rick reminded the Mayors that at their last meeting, they voted to have him communicate with OPM that VCOG's desire was that the program not be regionalized and administered centrally. We felt that the program worked fine on an individual basis between the state and the towns. We did communicate that to OPM. He then received a communication from OPM that that was not acceptable and they were not going to fund towns individually in the upcoming year. The options available, which are in the memo he sent the COG on October 16th, are (1) The region must apply for the total \$10,200 available for the three Valley towns and act as procurement agent for those funds on behalf of the three towns; (2) The individual towns may designate some other RPO to administer their funds; or (3) The towns, if they elect not to administer regionally, will not receive any funding under this program for this year. This item is a pilot program for this year that they intend to implement regionally on a trial basis, assess the results and then move forward. Ansonia was included in this because even though the money is for state FY'07-08, FFY '05 program, Ansonia is not on the Federal assistance list for FFY '06 or '07 which means they are going to be in this program for the following two years. He encourages the COG members to discuss this with their Chiefs of Police to get their input. He also included in the memo the ability for them to contact OPM directly if the law enforcement officials would prefer to speak directly to OPM.

Rick went on to say the application window is Nov. 15 – Feb. 15, 2008, but all funds must be obligated by June 30th. He suggests convening a meeting among the Mayors and the Chiefs to figure out how they want to respond to this. He has also received a suggestion from OPM, not a particularly good one, that some of the State Senators have been trying to identify funding for the Valley Street Crime Unit. They were suggesting that this money could go there and that would satisfy the regional requirement. Mayor Della Volpe then asked Rick for his recommendation. He indicated that we have to access the funds and they are not giving us any choice on how to do it. We can apply for it regionally but from conversations with some of the Chiefs, no one likes that option.

Sheila O'Malley, Derby's Economic Development Director, then spoke. She said in terms of funding, they are going to see a lot of state and federal programs move to regionalization, especially with our small communities. The feedback she is getting from people at the Capitol is that if you want to make your application viable, you should join forces with the other lower Valley towns. She personally thinks that law enforcement people in each individual town are best able to tell the funders what they need. That is the direction we are moving in, so we need to take every opportunity to get every available dollar. It is difficult to go back to the law enforcement people because they do want to control their own funding pool, and rightly so, but we have to go with the flow to obtain the money. Rick wanted to add that if we run this program the way they want us to, the VCOG will take a loss of somewhere between \$3,000 and 4,000. They are going to give us \$1,020 to run the program and his estimate, especially if he has to go to three towns and purchase whatever items they want separately, is this will cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000. So if we do this, the towns will end up subsidizing this program.

1st Sel. Koskelowski asked if this was for equipment only. Rick said it is for equipment, training, any regional crime-fighting. Mr. Koskelowski then said that right now, the Valley has two regional things—the Valley Street Crime Unit and “Click it or Ticket”. He asked if that money could be used to do the “Click it or Ticket”. Right now, officers are being paid overtime to do this program. He’d rather see that program get the funds vs. the Valley Street Crime Unit. Rick Dunne then suggested that the discussion be tabled for today. The staff will proceed with the basic paperwork to fund “Click it or Ticket” on a regular basis, and we will put this on the agenda for next month’s meeting which should give the CEOs enough time to discuss the matter with their law enforcement people. All agreed.

Discussion on Regional Performance Incentive Program Application – Rick reminded the members that we have been discussing this for a few months and the Mayors appointed a working group to work with our staff to develop a proposal for this program to regionalize municipal services. There is a memo in the agenda packet from David Elder which describes the options that were considered and the option the working group settled on which was to update and improve the regional parcel data base. In 1998-2002, we had a program where we did that for our four towns and created a model whereby the towns could integrate it with their assessor’s system and provide a system for regular updates. Rick said that Seymour is the only one of the four communities that has the full integration from city engineer and changes to things like subdivisions through to the assessor’s records and then back out into the CAMA system. Those updates are automatic. This would go back and pick up the effort—update everyone’s parcel maps in each of the towns and then set up a system more similar to what was implemented off the original program in Seymour that could be integrated into each of the towns. There have been conversations with each of the town assessors about this through each town’s representative on the working group. The general agreement is that this is the activity that should be identified and applied for. There are requirements from the state that would end up getting satisfied through this. Towns are required to map storm water outfalls which has been a requirement for the last couple of years. This would allow for all that mapping to be completed in each of your towns. It would also allow us to do the mapping for things like the aquifer protection areas. Rick continued that he knows it is somewhat controversial to make this info available on line, but we would have the ability to take this system, put it up on the server so that the vast majority of people that come into town hall for title and property searches and things like that would be able to get basic information on line. However, that is up to each town as to how comfortable they feel with the security. The Chairman agreed that this could be a security issue. He noted that Seymour is really far ahead on this issue. They have a lot of mapping done particularly on storm drains. He supports this application as that would be a good use for this money.

Rick Dunne noted that in Dave Elder’s memo, he mentions that the scope would include three phases: parcel updates; training on, and purchase of software programs for each municipality; and the capability for online web access. He said this is the direction the staff feels we should go in, and our intention would be to apply for 100% of the funding required to do this from the program. No local or regional match would be involved in our application. Sheila O’Malley asked a few questions about the program and suggested some in-kind be put in. Rick said, at this time, he would like to have the staff and working group develop the application and send it to OPM by Dec. 1 for their review. He doesn’t think we need a specific vote on that today. Then each town would need to have their legislative body endorse this. That needs to be done by January 1. Every town will have the info and have the opportunity to comment on it and approve

it or not. If all goes well, OPM will make a decision in the spring. There were no other questions.

The Chairman suggested a five-minute recess, during which Mayor Lauretti arrived, and the meeting continued.

Minutes – The minutes of the 10/10/07 VCOG regular meeting were accepted.

Motion: By Mark Lauretti; Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous

Authorization for Executive Director and Counsel to Sign FFY '07 Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Program – Rick Dunne informed the CEOs that these certifications need to be done periodically for our federal transit assistance program. They were prepared and reviewed by our counsel and presented for the COG's endorsement to empower both he and Atty. Welch to sign the required documents.

Motion: By James Della Volpe – To authorize the Secretary to sign the resolution which empowers the Executive Director and the Counsel to sign the Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Program; Second: Mark Lauretti; Vote: Unanimous

Authorization for Extension of Maturity Date, Brownfields RLF, Cook Industrial Associates, LLC – Rick reminded the Mayors that this is a prior loan agreement that this board approved as the loan committee for the DECD loan fund that the COG manages for brownfields. We are at a point of carrying that project forward. The buyer and seller have finally reached agreement on the purchase of the property. Our proposal from a meeting with Atty. Welch is to extend the maturity date of the current \$20,000 note. Rick then read the motion prepared by Atty. Welch: "To approve the Promissory Note and Security Agreement Modification Agreement and authorize the Executive Director to execute the same on behalf of the Valley Council of Governments; Further, authorize the Executive Director to consent to four additional thirty day extensions of the maturity date provided therein and authorize the Executive Director to execute any documents necessary to effectuate same." Rick said this is so that we can hold the current note in abeyance and then roll it into a much larger note that will come before the board for the ultimate site remediation required to bring American Precision Manufacturing to Ansonia. There were no questions.

Motion: By Mark Lauretti – To approve the motion as presented; Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous

Discussion/Approval, Brownfields RLF Application, 46 Commerce Street, Derby – Rick handed out the cover sheet from the Commerce Street application. This is the site we worked on previously and granted funds to. The staff is not recommending a grant at this point. In order to proceed, we are recommending a fully repayable loan to continue the assessment of the brownfields issues on that site. The amount of the loan is \$10,800 and would be fully repayable and amortized over a timeline yet to be determined, probably five years. There may be other loans in the future to cover clean-up costs by the applicant. In answer to a question by Mayor Lauretti, Rick said that this is a new request for the same location the funds were granted to previously to start the assessment. There were no other questions. Rick said following approval, he will draft a cover letter to send to the state on this.

Motion: By Mark Lauretti – To approve the submission of application for a loan for 46 Commerce St., Derby; Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous

Presentation by CT Coalition to Eradicate Lyme Disease – Dr. Georgina Scholl indicated that First Selectman Natalie Ketcham of Redding was also supposed to attend today but could not make it. Dr. Scholl had several handouts for the COG members. She then discussed the letter sent to Governor Rell by the chief elected officials of the Housatonic Valley CEO regarding deer overpopulation. The state has promoted the aggressive control of mosquito populations to combat West Nile Disease but has failed to exert the same effort to control deer population in order to combat Lyme Disease. Dr. Scholl indicated the CDC statistics indicate approximately 56,000 new cases of Lyme Disease in CT in 2005. She also discussed other tick-borne diseases such as ehrlichiosis and babesiosis. These can all be reduced to pre-epidemic levels by restoring the deer population to natural, environmentally sustainable numbers. She explained that the dilemma is the DPH regards the deer as the province of the DEP and the DEP regards health education as the province of DPH. The Coalition is requesting that the state set a policy direction and recommend that these two agencies work together on getting more information out to the public and possibly setting a tick-borne disease prevention goal to be implemented by DEP.

Dr. Scholl asked the VCOG members to sign a letter to Governor Rell supporting and endorsing the efforts of the Coalition.

Motion: By Mark Lauretti – To sign a letter to Governor Rell endorsing the efforts of the CT Coalition to Eradicate Lyme Disease; Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti,
Secretary