

VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MEETING NOTICE

Special Meeting Valley Council of Governments

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

10:00 a.m. at VCOG Offices

AGENDA

(Pledge of Allegiance)

1. Public Session
2. Acceptance of Minutes of 10/14/09 Regular Meeting *(Enc.)*
3. Treasurer's Report *(Enc.)*
4. Approval of Authorizing Resolution for the Execution of 2nd Supplemental Agreement between VCOG and ConnDOT for Planning & Preliminary Design Study for a Connector Road between State Routes 42 & 67 in Seymour and Beacon Falls *(Enc.)*
5. Discussion of Regional Energy Grant Opportunity – Arthur Bogen
6. Performance and Contract Review for Executive Director *(regular and Executive Session)*

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Tuesday, November 24, 2009
at VCOG Offices**

Persons Present:

Mayor James Della Volpe, Ansonia
Mayor Anthony Staffieri, Derby
1st Selectman Robert Koskelowski, Seymour
Mayor Mark Lauretti, Shelton
Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff
David Elder, “
Clare Falcha, “
Arthur Bogen, “
Jan Jadach, “
Matt Fulda, “

Chairman Koskelowski called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The Chairman then asked if anyone wished to speak during the public session. No one spoke and the public session was closed.

Minutes – The minutes of the 10/14/09 VCOG regular meeting were accepted.

Motion: By Mark Lauretti; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer’s Report was included with the agenda packets. Mayor Lauretti asked if there are any red flags in it. Rick said regarding the State Grant-in-Aid, we received an additional cut from \$10,000 to \$8,000. Regarding Brownfields dues, we are having trouble collecting from some of the Brownfields communities. Rick said that he and Arthur will visit some of the communities to confirm their participation as sometimes new CEOs don’t understand what we do. Rick continued that we have some slight adjustments to make on the amended budget approved last month, but it is 99% correct. There were no other questions and no action is required.

Approval of Authorizing Resolution for the Execution of 2nd Supplemental Agreement between VCOG and ConnDOT for Planning & Preliminary Design Study for a Connector Road between State Routes 42 and 67 in Seymour and Beacon Falls – There were no questions on this resolution.

Motion: By Mark Lauretti; To approve said Resolution, as stated; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

Discussion of Regional Energy Grant Opportunity – Arthur Bogen said that OPM and the Dept. of Energy issued guidelines for supplemental funding under the stimulus program for regional grants available for energy projects. The outline was similar to the towns’ individual application. There are 14 categories that could be applied for. The amount of money is \$959,000 statewide for 169 towns. If everybody applies and it is evenly distributed, that is

\$5,676 per town and \$22,706 for the four-town region. Arthur continued that we would like to know if the CEOs want us to draft a grant looking at some cooperative ideas that could be done in the region. Mayor Lauretti asked about projects that could be shared among the communities. Arthur said that Rick anticipated that question and suggested that one possibility would be conversion of traffic signals from incandescent to LED lighting. The estimated cost is about \$3,000 for an intersection--\$2,000 for replacement bulbs and about \$1,000 for installation. You could do approximately seven intersections throughout the four towns. Shared or border streets would show regional cooperation. Arthur mentioned other ideas as well such as going out for technical consultant services to develop energy efficient strategies. Also, you could do commercial building audits, financial incentive programs, energy efficient retrofit studies and general energy distribution studies. Rick said if they wanted to, they could look into the possibility of purchasing and installing fuel cells among the Valley communities to generate power and share it over the UI grid. This would be the type of study that they would be able to do under this grant. For \$22,000, it would be only a study which would outline some options. He continued that there is the potential, if a lot of this money is not applied for at the deadline, that they may then go back and approach the towns that have expressed interest. We are seeing that with the stimulus money. Mayor Lauretti suggested that our proposal could be done in stages or phases. Possibly the street light project could get expanded to 12 or even 20 intersections throughout the Valley. He feels this idea is not a bad approach. However, he is opposed to employing any consultant. The others agreed with him on that. Arthur said we could certainly propose it in phases like that. There aren't any clear guidelines about amounts to apply for. This is just a general statement of the amount that would probably be available. It says approximately 10% of the total amount awarded to the state, so some projects may not use all of the money that has been allocated under different categories and some may use too much. We don't know for sure. So if we did a proposal with two phases as the Mayor suggested, it would be \$22,000 for the first phase. We could give them the list of intersections and prioritize them for the grant with phase one, phase two, etc. and let them decide how much they are going to fund. You can always add pedestrian signals for about \$400 per intersection.

Mayor Lauretti then asked, just for discussion purposes, if there is a fit for Valley Transit seeing as they serve the four communities. David Elder wondered if we possibly could include that energy efficiency in the study we already have. Rick didn't think we could implement it in time but maybe there is something else that we already know about that we don't have to wait for the facility assessment to be complete that might fit. Arthur indicated that there is category, development and implementation of transportation program, so you could come up with something like certain retrofits to the equipment, converting for bio-diesel use, something like that. Mayor Lauretti asked about a waste oil burner to burn the waste oil as they generate quite a bit. That is relatively inexpensive. Ansonia, Derby and Seymour could send their waste oil to VTD rather than send it out and pay for disposal; that would be a savings. Rick said Arthur could investigate the potential eligibility for a waste oil burner. Arthur thinks we could propose it in a generalized category and see what happens. The deadline for questions was Nov. 16th. To sum up, Rick said we will look at the waste oil burner first and then the LED signals. Arthur said it would have to include the appropriate storage facility there. Rick said we will possibly be able

to present the application at the January meeting before it goes out or get them to the CEOs to look at. The due date is January 8th.

Mayor Staffieri asked what kind of fuel the buses ran on as he knows someone who buys the used frying oil from restaurants. Mayor Lauretti said VTD buses run on diesel right now. Rick mentioned that CT just received the second largest TIGER grant for fuel cell buses. He doesn't know if it will include those size buses. It will be an order in place so that there may be additional buses that can be ordered by other users. David mentioned receiving a request from Greater New Haven Transit to piggyback on their order. Otherwise we have to develop our own specs. Mayor Lauretti indicated that this will have to go before the VTD board. We may want to re-think our position as far as this one-size-fits-all type vehicle that we have. Rick said if you are going to do a separate procurement for VTD, it's a huge process in terms of developing the spec and doing the Buy American inspections, etc. It's a big deal. It would require at least 7-8 months to develop the full spec to satisfy FTA. The Mayor said this was a discussion for another day.

Arthur asked for a clarification. Is the direction to first try to create an application with two aspects. One is after we create a cost analysis for the waste oil burner and storage facility, that that would be the first part of the application. Assuming that is not going to cost the full \$22,000, we would then have the second aspect of the application for as many of the LED light conversions that we can get in that remainder. The third aspect would be to ask for additional funds if available for additional LED light conversions. Rick said he would have Matt get a complete inventory of locally-owned signals and pedestrian signals. After that, we would be in touch to re-confirm with each of the towns. Mayor Lauretti then indicated it is probably better to go with the signalization application because it is much broader and can serve everyone's interest a lot greater. There is nothing to stop us from getting a waste oil burner. They are relatively inexpensive, possibly under \$10,000. That is something we may consider doing anyway and then provide the service to the towns. Rick said we should submit it all, beyond what is available to us to fund, and then ask them, if additional funds become available, to consider us. The Mayor said he would hate to dilute our application and have them just give us the waste oil burner. In the broader picture, it is better for us to go with the LED lights in the intersections. First Selectman Koskelowski questioned how much the savings would be. Arthur said the projected energy savings is 70% in energy costs alone. The First Selectman then asked if they take into consideration the cost of the bulbs. Arthur indicated the reduced maintenance costs for re-lamping is 8%. Arthur said the return on the investment is between 2 and 3 years on average.

Prior to going into Executive Session, Chairman Koskelowski indicated that he wanted to thank the VCOG staff for the work they do. He said Rick does an outstanding job as the director and it's been an honor and a privilege serving with the Mayors and all of the staff. He continued that David has helped him out immensely in Seymour with a number of projects. He can't thank the staff enough for all the good they do for the Valley towns. Rick said that on behalf of the staff, he wants to thank the Chairman for overseeing the agency as Chairman while we rebuilt the agency.

Performance and Contract Review for Executive Director – Executive Session: The Chairman requested a motion to go into Executive Session regarding contract review for the Executive Director.

Motion: by Mark Lauretti; To go into Executive Session; Second: Anthony Staffieri;
Vote: Unanimous

The board went into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. and came out of Executive Session at 10:37 a.m. on a motion made by James Della Volpe, seconded by Mark Lauretti. Unanimous.

Motion: by James Della Volpe; To approve the Executive Director's contract as recommended by the Personnel Committee, and empower Vice-Chairman Della Volpe to execute;

Second: Anthony Staffieri. Vote: Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Lauretti, seconded by Anthony Staffieri and unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti,
Secretary