

VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

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

VCOG MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

11:30 a.m.

at John J. Sullivan's Restaurant

Wakelee Ave., Ansonia

AGENDA

(Pledge of Allegiance)

- 1. Public Session**
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes of 11/14/07 Meeting (Enc.)**
- 3. Treasurer's Report (Enc.)**
- 4. Correspondence**
- 5. Approval of Non-Discrimination Certification for Safe Routes to Schools Program (Enc.)**
- 6. Update on Justice Assistance Grant for Local Law Enforcement (JAGLLE) Program**
- 7. Update on Regional Performance Incentive Program Application**

*** A holiday luncheon will follow the meeting.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Wednesday, December 12, 2007
at John J. Sullivan's Restaurant**

Persons Present:

Mayor James Della Volpe, Ansonia
First Selectman Robert Koskelowski, Seymour
Mayor Mark Lauretti, Shelton
Deidre Caruso, Town of Seymour
Denise Powell, Town of Seymour
Sandy Nesteriak, City of Shelton
Cyndee Burke, City of Shelton
Phil Robertson, City of Derby
Barbara Charlonis, City of Derby
Beth Lynch, City of Ansonia
Deanna DiVincenzo, City of Ansonia
Atty. Kevin Blake, Ansonia Counsel
Lauren Garrison, NH Register
Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff
David Elder “
Matt Funda “
Clare Falcha “
Jan Jadach “

Chairman Koskelowski called the meeting to order at 11:55 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.

Rick Dunne indicated that Mayor Staffieri is at another meeting and will try to attend.

Minutes – The minutes of the 11/14/07 VCOG regular meeting were accepted.

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

Treasurer's Report – Rick Dunne reported that we are currently running about \$42,000 ahead in revenues at this time. This is because we have a built-in surplus of \$26,000 in the current budget based upon contract and staffing status. We actually are running a little less than \$20,000 ahead. Mayor Lauretti asked if there was anything out of the ordinary they should know about. Rick indicated we are struggling a little because of the electric and oil bills. Mayor Della Volpe suggested implementing a four-day workweek. Rick noted we have discussed altering the workweek in the past. Mayor Lauretti said he would like a little history such as what is different from last year with the utility bills. Clare Falcha said she has been tracking that. First Sel. Koskelowski suggested doing a worksheet on electricity by kilowatts. She agreed. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

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

There was no correspondence.

Approval of Non-Discrimination Certification for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program – David Elder said the SRTS Program has been added to our Unified Planning Work Program for this year. VCOG will receive \$12,000 to assist municipal boards of education develop their Safe Routes to School Plans. ConnDOT, as part of this program, requested that VCOG execute a Non-Discrimination Certification so that we can administer the program. Mayor Lauretti then asked for a refresher on this program. David said that each RPO receives \$12,000 to administer this and provide assistance in identifying infrastructure improvements for the VCOG Schools. This program stresses safe walking routes to schools to encourage exercise and help curb child obesity. In answer to a question by Mayor Lauretti, David said that the plans will be developed by the school systems. The final plans will then be presented to the VCOG for their endorsement. Included in the plans will be specific projects. The second phase of the program is to apply for the FHWA funds that are 100% federal, in order to implement the projects identified in the plan. Final recommendations and project prioritizations will go before the COG. Eligible projects include sidewalks, bikeways, traffic calming features, crosswalks, signage, etc. FHWA success stories promote a grassroots approach to the planning effort that includes an advisory committee consisting of the superintendents, Chief Elected officials, or their staff, teachers, and parents. ConnDOT states that this effort is essential to getting the plan off the ground and that in parts of the country where the program has been piloted the schools have had a champion to lead the effort. Each superintendent's office will be responsible for forming the committee in their town but that the committee must have representation by town CEO. Dave noted that he has been in contact with each superintendent's office. Also, surveys will need to be sent out which will take some time.

Mayor Lauretti then asked when the COG will weigh in on this. Dave said they will be involved when the committee is formed and then again when the prioritization takes place. David presumed that the COG will ultimately prioritize each of the plan's top projects and apply for funding from FHWA. Mayor Lauretti said that he would like input at the committee level, as once a decision is made, there is very little flexibility. He thinks it is important to be involved while the plan is being formulated. This is an important program; he is a big proponent of students walking to school, and we do nothing to encourage this. Mayor Lauretti then suggested forwarding these minutes directly to the Superintendents of Schools. He said he thinks DOT is taking a proactive approach here. He also agrees with the "No Child Left Inside" program through the DEP. This is a terrific idea. The Chairman asked who would be responsible for the cost of doing these improvements. David indicated that it is 100% federal. Sel. Koskelowski said he agrees with Mayor Lauretti that we need to be more involved in this program.

Motion: By Mark Lauretti; To approve and execute the Non-Discrimination Certification for the SRTS Program; Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous

Update on Justice Assistant Grant for Local Law Enforcement (JAGLLE) Program – Rick reminded the Mayors that at their last meeting, they directed him to develop a proposal to use this grant program for the "Click it or Ticket" program to be funded through JAGLLE. He has not heard from the Chiefs regarding that yet. Rick indicated he has a meeting tomorrow with OPM to discuss how they foresee us carrying out this program. Regions have expressed concerns that they are not comfortable with the regional approach on this program. OPM is going back for more money to provide for the regions to run the program. They are extending the deadline to September 30 from June 30, 2008. They will be issuing a new application in

about 30 days. Rick said he put the “Click it or Ticket” program before them. They said this money cannot supplant existing funding. If “Click it or Ticket” is funded currently out of municipal funds, you cannot supplant those funds with federal funds. Also, you cannot pay to take police off their regular duty for this program. He suggests not taking any action until after he has attended tomorrow’s meeting.

Update on Regional Performance Incentive Program Application – David informed the Mayors that the grant application on this program was submitted on November 30. OPM is accepting endorsing resolutions from towns through January 1st. Every town has this on their agenda. Two towns have already endorsed it; it still has to go before Shelton and Derby. He noted that it would be a savings of 24% of what the towns had to do individually. There were no comments on this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti,
Secretary