

# **VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Railroad Station, 12 Main St., Derby, CT 06418  
203-735-8688**

## **VCOG MEETING NOTICE**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2006**

**10:00 a.m.**

**at VCOG Offices**

## **AGENDA**

**(Pledge of Allegiance)**

- 1. Public Session**
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes of October 11, 2006 Regular Meeting (Enc.)**
- 3. Treasurer's Report (Enc.)**
- 4. Discussion/Endorsement of Valley Dental Clinic Proposal from Richard Knoll, TEAM (Enc.)**
- 5. Presentation on Community Transp. Assoc. of America (CTAA) JobLinks Planning Project, Final Report – Catherine Adsitt, VNOP**
- 6. Approval of DECD Loan Fund Application and Promissory Note, City Of Derby, O'Sullivan's Island (Enc.)**
- 7. Endorsement of Two VCOG/RBP Grant Applications to EPA (Enc.)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Wednesday, December 13, 2006  
at VCOG Offices**

**Persons Present:**

Mayor James Della Volpe, Ansonia  
Mayor Anthony Staffieri, Derby  
1<sup>st</sup> Sel. Robert Koskelowski, Seymour  
Catherine Adsitt, VNOP  
Richard Knoll, TEAM, Inc.  
Elizabeth Benton, New Haven Register  
Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff  
Jan Jadach, “  
Clare Falcha, “

(Mayor Lauretti was unable to be present as he was attending a funeral.)

Chairman Koskelowski called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Rick Dunne requested that an item be added to #6 on the agenda regarding the DECD Loan Fund Application. The subject is the memo he handed out. It is for discussion and potential action on Cook Industrial Park which has already received approval for a loan.

The Chairman requested a motion to add this to the agenda.

Motion: By James Della Volpe; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

The Chairman then asked if anyone wished to speak during the public session. No one spoke and the public session was closed.

The **Minutes** of the 10/11/06 VCOG meeting were accepted.

Motion: By Anthony Staffieri; Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous

**Treasurer's Report** – Rick Dunne indicated that he plans to come to the members in January with some transfers. He will get those out to them two weeks before the meeting. We have taken on some projects that were not anticipated in the beginning of the year. We also have some computer and supply issues and need to rearrange some money. Rick said he had recently sent the Mayors a memo regarding the Housatonic River Basin Project application. He had asked to take that expense out of miscellaneous but we can place that as an actual expense instead. In answer to a question from the Chairman, Rick indicated we should have no problem staying within the budget this year. Mayor Della Volpe asked if the utility increase will affect us. Rick said that we will have some costs associated with it. However, Metro North does pay a lot of the utility expenses for the building. We may be looking at a 50% increase but we'll try to budget for that through transfer of existing funds. There were no other questions regarding the report.

**Discussion/Endorsement of Valley Dental Clinic Proposal** – Rick Dunne handed out a Resolution that he redrafted on this proposal. It is substantially the same as what was in the agenda packet. A concept paper on the Dental Clinic was also included in the packet. Rich Knoll of TEAM then spoke, indicating that he is looking for support for an application to the State for bonding funds for this project. The space for this clinic is on the second floor of the building at 30 Elizabeth St. in Derby. It is for the dental clinic and for a PCRC child guidance clinic. They are at around \$900,000 to \$1 million for the total cost at this time. This will replace the existing two-chair dental clinic located in Griffin Hospital. Chairman Koskelowski asked how they would go about finding dentists to operate out of this facility. Mr. Knoll said that Hill Health Center of New Haven will operate it. They can get a federally designated dental rate which is 75-80% of what normal dentistry rates are. He went on to say that the current equipment at the existing clinic at the hospital is obsolete, and this was run for many years by volunteer dentists. Hill Health is now running it with a part-time dentist but it's not working out.

Mayor Staffieri said that this sounds like a wonderful project and is helping our needy children. In addition, it does not cost anything from our communities and is basically state and federally funded. He suggested contacting UCONN Dental School, and Rich Knoll said Hill Health will undoubtedly do that. He said they estimate 2,000 – 3,000 customers will be treated annually at this facility. Mr. Koskelowski summed up by saying we have an obligation to help those who do not get services elsewhere. All agreed.

Motion: By James Della Volpe – To pass the resolution, as presented, endorsing this project;  
Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

**Presentation on Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) JobLinks Planning Project, Final Report** – Rick Dunne indicated that VNOP was running this project which studied issues in getting low income workers to jobs. The final report has been completed. Catherine Adsitt then spoke, indicating she brought copies of the final report. She thanked the VCOG for acting as fiduciary on this. The study looked at low income people seeking work or working in the area. There were eight organizations as the partners in this project. ACT was also brought in. They interviewed and surveyed 292 employers and had outreach meetings with employers and residents to get an idea of the transportation picture in the community and what the gaps are in transportation. One of the findings is that employees who use public transportation are more likely to turn down a job than those with a car. The group identified improving the marketing of transportation as an on-going project. They are looking at marketing materials that are Valley-specific for VTD, CT Transit and GBTA who all serve the Valley. The information should be in one piece of material that is available to the public so they can understand the transfer system. The recommendation is that transit providers use the information that has been collected to better facilitate transfers and scheduling.

Catherine went on to say that out of the seven projects funded nationally by CTAA, ours was the partnership that worked the best. It was the willingness of different sectors to come together that made this project work. Rick Dunne interjected that we are in the process of producing new materials for marketing. Also, the three transit districts will now look into expanding Sunday service. There was a brief discussion regarding the service in the Valley. Mayor Staffieri noted that it would be helpful if the CT Transit route was changed to go down Division Street. Rick mentioned possibly bringing Charlie Carson from CT Transit in to discuss routes.

The Chairman thanked Catherine Adsitt for her presentation and hard work on this.

**Approval of DECD Loan Fund Application and Promissory Note, City of Derby, O'Sullivan's Island** – Rick Dunne informed the members that DECD approved this actual document just this morning. He said he would answer any questions regarding the terms. Mayor Staffieri said the Derby Board of Aldermen approved the note. This will begin the cleanup of O'Sullivan's Island.

Motion: By James Della Volpe – To approve the application and promissory note as presented;  
Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

The Chairman then said they would take up the item added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Action on DECD Loan Fund Application for Cook Industrial Park, Ansonia** – Rick indicated he would summarize the memo he had handed out regarding this. We have been working for almost a year with Mayor Della Volpe dealing with the Cook Industrial Park site in Ansonia. The proposed buyer, American Precision Manufacturing, will bring 43 jobs to the City. There was a problem in keeping this deal together. The buyer is financially solid. He has put together a package of private and SBA financing. This board previously approved assessments of the site which projected \$130,000 in remediation expenses. We are in a position, by extending the commitment we have already made from our Revolving Loan Fund, which will be paid back, to cover the cost of the remediation that will allow SBA to complete the deal with the buyer. We need to help the buyer with this situation. The State has approved the concept he has put forward. Rather than just make a loan, we are asking to approve a line of credit for this site up to \$130,000. At the completion of the project, which we will run out of this office, we will take whatever amount of that money spent, roll it back into the existing note and bring it back to this board for approval. Then we can begin the repayment of the note from the buyer. We think DEP will contribute separately to this remediation process. Also, we think, but it is not a guarantee, that we may end up spending around \$50,000 of the line of credit. We will eliminate the long-term monitoring costs. We will propose to American Precision that they pay that as they go. Rick summed up by saying he would like to put approval of this in place now so that we can move forward with this project.

Mayor Della Volpe said he is in favor of this. The buyer operates a good business that has been in existence for a long time. There are some issues with this but he has faith in the staff to handle this.

Motion: By Anthony Staffieri – To approve the extension of a line of credit to American Precision Manufacturing in an amount up to \$130,000 from the VCOG DECD environmental loan fund; Second: Chairman Koskelowski stepped aside as chair to second the motion; Vote: Unanimous

**Endorsement of Two VCOG/RBP Grant Applications to EPA** – Rick Dunne indicated that we are applying for the next round of federal funds for the assessment of sites. He noted that in the past, we have assisted sites in all of our towns with this money. This will be a three-year cycle. We are applying for \$200,000 in each of the categories—hazardous waste and petroleum.

Motion: By James Della Volpe – To endorse the two EPA grant applications; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

First Selectman Koskelowski then informed the others that he has requested \$20,000 for Valley Transit District. The Seymour Board of Selectmen has approved this, and it is going to the Board of Finance next week for their approval. Rick noted that he met with Mayor Lauretti about VTD financing yesterday and will be reporting back to the Mayors in the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti,  
Secretary