

VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

VCOG MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
11:30 a.m.**
at VCOG Offices

AGENDA

1. **Public Session**
2. **Acceptance of Minutes of January 11, 2006 Regular Meeting** (Enc.)
3. **Treasurer's Report** (Enc.)
 - (a) **Review/Approval of FY 2005-06 Budget Amendments** (Enc.)
4. **Communications:**
 - (a) **FYI - DOT Earmark Priorities 2007** (Enc.)
5. **Discussion: On-Line Assessors Info; Long-Range Transportation Plan**
– David Elder
6. **Discussion/Endorsement of State Matching Grant Program, Elderly & Handicapped Transportation Application** (information previously sent)
7. **Discussion and Action re: Lease for Railroad Café** (Enc.)
8. **Approval of Agreement with Derby Historical Society** (Enc.)
9. **Discussion of VTD Study**
10. **Monthly Reports:** (Enc.)
 - (a) **Brownfields Pilot Progress Report**
 - (b) **Valley Needs & Opportunities Project Report**
11. **Executive Session – Discussion re: Contractual Negotiations/Obligations**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Wednesday, February 8, 2006
at VCOG Offices**

Persons Present:

Mayor James Della Volpe, Ansonia
Mayor Anthony Staffieri, Derby
1st Sel. Robert Koskelowski, Seymour
Mayor Mark Lauretti, Shelton (by telephone)
Atty. Thomas Welch
Elizabeth Benton, New Haven Register
Tony Spinelli, CT Post
Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff
David Elder, VCOG Staff
Jan Jadach, VCOG Staff
Clare Falcha, VCOG Staff

Chairman Koskelowski called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. He then asked if anyone wished to speak during the public session. No one spoke and the public session was closed.

The Chairman then asked for a motion to go out of order on the agenda and move the Executive Session to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate Mayor Lauretti who was only able to participate via telephone,

Motion: By James Della Volpe; To change the order of the agenda and go into Executive Session; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

The Mayors then went into Executive Session at 11:37 a.m. along with VCOG Counsel and the Executive Director. Mayor Lauretti participated by phone. The COG came out of Executive Session at 12:14 p.m. on a motion made by James Della Volpe, seconded by Anthony Staffieri and unanimous.

The **Minutes** of the 1/11/06 VCOG meeting were accepted.

Motion: By Robert Koskelowski; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer's Report – Rick Dunne handed out the profit & loss statement through January. He noted that we are running \$15,000 to the good. This should balance out by the end of the year, based upon project costs. There were no questions and no action was needed.

Review/Approval of FY 2005-06 Budget Amendments – Rick Dunne indicated that at last month's meeting, the members discussed amending the budget to account for unanticipated revenue. There is a note at the end of each change. The reasons for these changes are: an increase in grants, an increase in DOT funds, a decrease in CERT monies and additional contract work done for the Town of Watertown in conjunction with the Brownfields project that we billed out for. Rick indicated that we are not proposing any transfers between line items. He said a

motion is required to appropriate \$272,964 in unanticipated revenue and increase expenses. This is going primarily to contractors for Route 8, FTA and EPA HazMat projects.

Motion: By Anthony Staffieri; To appropriate \$272,964 in unanticipated revenue and to increase expenses by \$272,964; Second: James DellaVolpe; Vote: Unanimous

Communications – DOT Earmark Priorities 2007; Rick Dunne said these are the priorities from the State that they have requested in the current budget. There is one in our MPO area which is the Stevenson Dam Bridge. The State is requesting \$31,280,000 to construct Bridge #1843 carrying Rt. 34 over the Housatonic River in Monroe. He noted that the only other earmarks in our area have to do with rail car service and inspection, bus maintenance, etc.

The discussion regarding on-line assessors information was put off until the end of the meeting.

Discussion/Endorsement of State Matching Grant Program, Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Application – Rick explained that a presentation on this program was made by Michael Sanders of CTDOT at the MPO meeting last week. Rick also sent the COG members a copy of the application package two weeks ago. This program is funded by the State to increase transportation opportunities for the elderly & handicapped within our region. A regional approach is encouraged but the money is allocated to the towns. He has had a request from one town to take a project on to provide a service to seniors. Towns are free to submit applications but he encourages the CEOs to discuss the regional approach. Applications must be submitted by March 10. In answer to a question from the Chairman, Rick said municipalities can apply on their own through the RPO; however, RPOs can apply as coordinator for a group of towns. Mr. Koskelowski also asked how much is available through this program. Rick said for Ansonia it was \$14,846; Derby, \$10,651; Seymour, \$11,494; Shelton, \$30,589. These are State formulas based on elderly population and square miles. If all the CEOs agree, he will apply for this with VTD as the implementing agency. Mayor Della Volpe and 1st Selectman Koskelowski both indicated they would prefer we apply on a regional basis. Mayor Lauretti asked if Shelton had to meet the full match as he has funding in place already. He is not interested in coming up with an additional \$30,000. Rick said it would have to be new service and new dollars. He also said you cannot regionalize the match. Mayor Lauretti said he would have to think about it. The CEOs will have to further discuss this and get back to Rick if they want to apply on a regional basis.

Discussion and Action regarding Lease for Railroad Cafe: As discussed at last month's meeting, Rick said the coffee shop will have a new owner. The draft lease which was drawn up by Counsel, copy of which is in the agenda packet, proposes a term of one year and a renewal of one year. The new owner has requested a term of two years and a renewal of two years. The Mayors did not have a problem with this.

Motion: by James Della Volpe – To authorize the lease, amended to two years with a two-year option to renew, between VCOG and Linda Tabone/Evelyn Craft; Second: Anthony Staffieri. Vote: Unanimous.

Approval of Agreement with Derby Historical Society – Rick indicated that this Agreement came before the COG a while ago and they approved of it. It then went to the staff of the Derby Historical Society. They have just returned the signed agreement which can now be executed in full.

Motion: by Anthony Staffieri – To accept the License Agreement with Derby Historical Society;
Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous.

Discussion of VTD Study – The Chairman indicated we need to contact the Chairman of the Valley Transit District and instruct him to send a letter to the municipalities requesting funding. Rick will take care of this.

There were no questions regarding the monthly reports on Brownfields and Valley Needs and Opportunities.

At this time, the members went back to the agenda item regarding On-Line Assessors Info. Rick began by saying this started out as a pilot program to integrate a mapping function for the municipal appraisal system. Seymour funded the pilot program to implement this. This leaves it open for other towns to participate. David Elder then updated the members on the results and demonstrated how the pilot project runs. All parcels are mapped for the entire Valley region. The Mayors had a few questions regarding cost and timeframe. Dave will write up an outline for the Mayors to look at and get it to them.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti,
Secretary