

# VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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## MEETING NOTICE

### Regular Meeting Valley Council of Governments

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

8:30 a.m.

VCOG Offices

## AGENDA

(Pledge of Allegiance)

1. **Public Session**
2. **Acceptance of Minutes of 5/13/09 Regular Meeting** *(Enc.)*
3. **Treasurer's Report** *(To be emailed)*
4. **Discussion/Adoption of VCOG Budget for FY 2010** *(Enc.)*
  - (a) **For Action: VCOG Resolution Concerning the State Budget** *(Enc.)*
5. **Approval of Authorizing Resolution for the Execution of Agreement Between VCOG and CTDOT for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Reconstruction of Rt. 34** *(Enc.)*
6. **Approval of Non-Discrimination Certification for Agreement Between VCOG and CTDOT for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Reconstruction of Rt. 34** *(Enc.)*

Note: A light breakfast will be provided at 8:30.

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Wednesday, June 10, 2009  
at VCOG Offices**

**Persons Present:**

Mayor James Della Volpe, Ansonia  
Mayor Anthony Staffieri, Derby  
1st Selectman Robert Koskelowski, Seymour  
Mayor Mark Lauretti, Shelton (arrived at 8:42 a.m.)  
Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff  
Clare Falcha “  
David Elder “  
Matt Fulda “  
Jan Jadach “

Chairman Koskelowski called the meeting to order at 8:35 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 5/13/09 VCOG regular meeting were accepted.

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

**Treasurer’s Report** – Rick Dunne indicated that the Treasurer’s Report was emailed and also handed out today. We are at a net income \$5,200 ahead of budget. We will probably maintain a slight surplus at the end of the year. He noted that the line items that are over 100% are all related to state or federal projects that we had excess income and expenditures that exceeded the budget amounts. They are in balance. The Chairman questioned the legal fees line item. Rick responded that these are fees related to the closing of some of the Brownfields loans. The fees are paid by EPA out of the Brownfields funds. In reality, we have less than \$1,000 of regular legal fees. All of the rest are related to the mortgage closings for the Brownfields loans.

Motion: By Anthony Staffieri; To accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented; Second: James Della Volpe; Vote: Unanimous.

**Discussion/Adoption of VCOG Budget for FY 2010** – Rick indicated that the Mayors had a copy of the budget in their packets. This budget is pursuant to last month’s meeting and the direction of this body. We are proposing a budget that has a built-in deficit of \$19,117.10. Rick noted that if you look under income, the state funding to this agency is at zero for this year, based on the Governor’s proposal. It was \$53,000 in the current year. That is a 100% funding cut to RPOs. Obviously, the state budget is not passed yet. What this board said at the last meeting was that we should anticipate the state funding at zero, make the cuts that we had proposed, which we did, and then leave the deficit as proposed. When the budget is adopted, if the revenue from the state is higher, we would adjust that number and reduce the deficit. We think we might get \$10,000 from the state. If not, we will transfer from fund balance from our reserve to cover any actual deficit. Our reserve of unrestricted cash is approximately between \$60,000 and \$70,000. In general, we should maintain one year’s funding in our reserve account. The Chairman then asked about the fund balance. Rick said the unrestricted cash is the real fund balance and is between \$60,000 and \$70,000. He indicated that the fund balance transfer at the end of the year will be based on the actual revenue from the state.

Motion: By James Della Volpe; To adopt the budget for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010, as presented; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous.

**VCOG Resolution Concerning State Budget** – Rick noted that this is the resolution he proposed at last month's meeting. It was discussed briefly at that time. This type of resolution is being adopted by most of the Regional Planning Organizations in CT this year. Based upon the state's cuts and the mandates from the state upon this agency, which are, in fact, mandates on the member municipalities, we may have to reduce current mandated activities and must decline to respond to new unfunded mandates from the state as may be approved by the General Assembly and effective after July 1. Basically, it is saying to the state that they are cutting almost 20% of our base operating budget and still continuing to mandate things upon us that the towns cannot afford to pay for. We will do our best to comply with everything but we may not be able to. Rick concluded that this is more a statement of policy than anything else. The Chairman asked what legal standing we have not to follow a mandate. Rick said that if the state chooses to enforce a mandate and any respective municipality or organization chooses to refuse to follow it, eventually it would be a lawsuit settled by a court. The problem with unfunded mandates is that they have never been tested by lawsuit so it has never been in front of the court. The state's history is that they ignore non-compliance. For example, anyone who didn't have a comprehensive plan of development newer than 10 years would lose their state funding. Nobody has ever lost their state funding and some of those plans have been as much as 20 years old.

Motion: By James Della Volpe; To approve the Resolution Concerning the State Budget; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous.

**Approval of Authorizing Resolution for the Execution of Agreement Between VCOG and CTDOT for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Reconstruction of Rt. 34** – Rick explained that this resolution and the non-discrimination certification that follows are needed for the execution of the Route 34 agreement.

Motion: By James Della Volpe; To approve the Authorizing Resolution for the Rt. 34 Agreement; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous.

**Approval of Non-Discrimination Certification for Agreement Between VCOG and CTDOT for the Development of Contract Plans, Specifications and Estimates for the Reconstruction of Rt. 34** – David Elder explained that these certifications are now being required for every contract that is executed with ConnDOT.

Motion: By James Della Volpe; To approve the Non-Discrimination Certification for the Rt. 34 Agreement; Second: Anthony Staffieri; Vote: Unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti,  
Secretary