

# **VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

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

## **VCOG MEETING NOTICE**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2006**

**11:30 a.m.\*\***

**at VCOG Offices**

## **AGENDA**

(Pledge of Allegiance)

- 1. Public Session**
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes of August 9, 2006 Regular Meeting (Enc.)**
- 3. Treasurer's Report (to be emailed)**
- 4. Valley United Way Presentation – Mayor Della Volpe, Chairman of Municipal Division for 2006 Campaign; Jane Snaider, VUW**
- 5. Discussion and Action Regarding DECD Loan Fund Amendment (Atty. Welch to email)**
- 6. Affirm Commitment to Fund Transit District Interim Contract (Enc.)**
- 7. Resolution Supporting Preservation of Farmland – Bomba Farm, Seymour (Enc.)**
- 8. Monthly Reports: (Enc.)**
  - (a) Valley Needs & Opportunities Project Report**
  - (b) Regional Brownfields Partnership**

**\*\* Note: A light lunch will be provided at 11:30 a.m.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Wednesday, September 20, 2006  
at VCOG Offices**

**Persons Present:**

Mayor James Della Volpe, Ansonia  
Mayor Anthony Staffieri, Derby  
1<sup>st</sup> Sel. Robert Koskelowski, Seymour  
Mayor Mark Lauretto, Shelton (arrived 11:50 a.m.)  
Jack Walsh, Valley United Way  
Matthew Higbee, CT Post  
Rick Dunne, VCOG Staff  
David Elder, “  
Jan Jadach, “  
Clare Falcha, “

Chairman Koskelowski called the meeting to order at 11:40 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 **Minutes** of the 8/9/06 VCOG meeting were accepted.

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

**Treasurer’s Report** – Rick Dunne indicated that the report was emailed and handed out. He noted that we are \$55,000 to the good. This is due to some advance payments. He noted that it looks like we will run a surplus for the year. He also noted that there may be some budget transfers required at the end of the year. There were no questions on the report.

**Valley United Way Presentation** – Jack Walsh from VUW addressed the CEOs regarding the 2006 campaign, noting that Mayor Della Volpe is chairing the Municipal Division of the campaign this year. He also noted that their campaign kickoff had taken place yesterday at The Kerite Company in Seymour with the theme “Celebrating the past....Strengthening the future”. Jack informed those present that the United Way has moved its offices to Shelton. He said the move was precipitated by the announcement that Ansonia Copper & Brass is trying to sell the building in which they were located. Jack then handed out a brochure that highlights the agencies that are funded, as well as a VUW Resource Guide. He briefly discussed some projects in which they are involved. He told of the adopt-a-school program which recently provided 183 children with approximately \$200 each in school clothing. At this time, Jack indicated he is here to request the COG’s support for the municipal campaign and to ask that they each appoint an individual from their staff to work with VUW staff on the campaign. Mayor Della Volpe said that Ansonia will help out in any way they can, and he is sure the other communities will, as well. All agreed to participate and to appoint a staff person to work on the campaign.

**Discussion and Action Regarding DECD Loan Fund Amendment** – Rick Dunne indicated that he had handed out a revised draft of the amendment to the Assistance Agreement between DECD and VCOG. The language had to be changed because of the name change from the Pilot

to the Regional Brownfields Partnership. He went on to explain that at the time of the execution of the original Assistance Agreement, only 10 municipalities were recognized as members. We now have 25 eligible municipalities, so DECD has requested that we execute this amendment.

At this time, Rick mentioned that the Brownfields member municipalities pay \$800 a year in dues. Some communities have opted not to pay dues. Those communities are still eligible for loans. However, if they put in for a project, they must pay their dues. He gave the Town of Plainville as an example. Originally, they elected to not pay dues; however, after submitting a project and finding out that, with the help of the RBP, the original cleanup estimate of \$1,200,000 would be reduced to \$265,000, they chose to be a dues-paying member. That is basically how the RBP operates. Mayor Lauretti asked what the dues were used for. Rick said that money is used to run meetings and to pay for investigation into projects that end up not being eligible for funding. The Mayors had a few other questions.

Motion: by Anthony Staffieri – To approve the Amendment to the Assistance Agreement Between the State DECD and the VCOG; Second: James Della Volpe Vote: Unanimous.

**Affirm Commitment to Fund Transit District Interim Contract** – Rick Dunne indicated that Mayor Lauretti was correct last month when he said we needed to specifically endorse this commitment at the COG level. Rick had included in the agenda packet information regarding the dollar amount each municipality was to pay. At this time, Mayor Lauretti noted that three of the four towns had paid. Mayor Della Volpe indicated he thought Ansonia had already paid this. No action was taken.

**Resolution Supporting Preservation of Farmland, Bomba Farm, Seymour** – First Selectman Koskelowski indicated this is an effort by the CT Farmland Trust to protect the Bomba Farm in Seymour through the purchase of a conservation easement. He noted that once this is done, this property will remain farmland forever. It will remain in the family and if they should sell it, it has to remain farmland.

Motion: by Mark Lauretti – To endorse the Resolution supporting the preservation of the Bomba Farm in Seymour as farmland; Second: James Della Volpe Vote: Unanimous.

**Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Agreement with ConnDOT for Planning and Design Study seeking to establish a Connector Road between Routes 67 and 42 in Seymour/Beacon Falls** – Rick Dunne indicated that this document is required to empower the chair to sign the agreements which we have just received from ConnDOT. Our agency will be running this project on behalf of the two towns to investigate and to do preliminary design for a potential connector road between Routes 67 and 42. We will accept the funds, engage a consultant to do the study and our staff will do the “no-build” scenario with the consultant doing the “build” scenario. We hope to achieve a preliminary design out of this grant.

Motion: by Mark Lauretti – To endorse the Resolution authorizing execution of the agreement with ConnDOT for planning and design study seeking to establish a connector road between Routes 67 and 42 in Seymour/Beacon Falls; Second: Anthony Staffieri. Vote: Unanimous.

There were no questions regarding the monthly reports. Rick Dunne noted that the VNOP is holding their annual meeting tomorrow morning at 7:30 at John J. Sullivan’s.

The Chairman then brought up the expansion of paramedic service in the Valley. He said each municipality approved the payment of \$20,000 to VEMS for the added paramedic service. He wondered why the decision was made by the VEMS board to put a paramedic in Oxford. It was his understanding that the service was supposed to be in Ansonia, Seymour and Shelton. Derby has Griffin Hospital. He also noted this was supposed to start on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2006 and did not start until September. Mr. Koskelowski thinks we should have Jerry Schwab of VEMS come to our next COG meeting to discuss the implementation of added service. The others agreed, and Rick said he will arrange this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Lauretti,  
Secretary