LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

January 9, 2013

Members:

Chester:	Edmund Meehan *
Cromwell:	Mertie Terry
Clinton:	Willie Fritz
Deep River:	Richard Smith
Durham:	Laura Francis * (9:02)
East Haddam:	Mark Walter, Chairman *
East Hampton:	Michael Maniscalco
Essex:	Norm Needleman *
Haddam:	Paul DeStefano *
Killingworth:	Cathy Iino *
Lyme:	Ralph Eno *
Middlefield:	Jon Brayshaw
Middletown:	Daniel Drew
Old Lyme:	Bonnie Reemsnyder *
Old Saybrook:	Carl Fortuna *
Portland:	Susan Bransfield *
Westbrook:	Noel Bishop *

Others Present:

David LeVasseur, Undersecretary, OPM
Liz Glidden, Haddam Town Planner (9:04)
Bill Warner, Middletown City Planner
Edgar Wynkoop, Transportation Planner

Staff Present:

Linda Krause
Jean Davies
Judy Snyder
Dorothy Papp
Torrance Downs

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* Members Present

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Mark Walter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments in Essex.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGREEMENT AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

Ms. Davies presented the resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation that Linda Krause, Executive Director is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments in negotiating and executing all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments with the CT Department of Transportation.

Upon motion of Mr. Meehan, seconded by Ms. Reemsnyder, it was unanimously voted:

Approve the authorization resolution.

RPIP RESOLUTION

Ms. Davies presented the resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with the CT Department of Transportation that Linda Krause, Executive Director is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments in negotiating and executing all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments with the CT Office of Policy and Management.

Upon motion of Ms. Reemsnyder, seconded by Mr. Walter, it was unanimously voted:

Approve the authorization resolution.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Ms. Krause gave an overview of the program budget and dues structure. Ms. Davies gave a Powerpoint presentation detailing each line item. Ms. Davies explained that there are two "pots of monies" from the transportation funding. The planning (PL) funding and the construction funds project in which the River COG draws from two urbanized areas, Hartford and New Haven.

Ms. Krause explained the three categories of the work program. The programs are: 1) the legacy (fixed grants), 2) the discretionary funds, and 3) the fees for extra services which in part the dues pay for. Mr. DeStefano, Ms. Iino, Ms. Eno, and Mr. Bishop all asked questions regarding what the staff can do before the towns are billed separately for services rendered. Ms. Francis requested that a list of services be available at the next River COG meeting. Members were interested in how the River COG could help with their updates to the town's Plan of Developments.

Mr. Krause stated that the River COG request for an additional $150,000 for merger funds has been granted by the state.

Ms. Krause presented the "Projected Actual COG Budget FY 2013", "OPM/COG Merger Budget" and the "FY 2014 COG Budget Worksheet". The total amount of the Midstate RPA merger money is uncertain because the audit and the regional hazardous mitigation plan need to be completed. An extension has been granted for the audit, but no expected date is available.

There were several questions asked about the dues and which "model" formula to use. The three were: Option 1- the town pays $5,000 plus .50/capita; 2) the town pays $2,500 plus .75/capita; and 3) the town pays $1.00/capita. The members discussed various options within these options presented. Some members stated that the northern towns (Midstate) should be able to use a portion of the merger monies for the increase in the dues.

Mr. Walter left the meeting at 10:17 a.m. and Ms. Iino became the acting chair.

Ms. Francis asked what would happen if any of the towns chose not to pay the dues. Mr. Krause replied that it has happened in the past, but the towns involved rejoined in the future.

Mr. Fortuna asked if a phasing in plan was ever discussed. Other members wanted one option this year and to stay with it. Mr. Needleman suggested that all towns paying an additional amount this year could receive 50% of the funds from the Midstate merger money. A straw vote was conducted.

Ms. Krause thanked everyone for attending this meeting and she will contact the other first selectmen.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Snyder
Recording Secretary