

APPROVED 10/20/2016 MINUTES

**WESTERN CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association
27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker - Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson
Secretary Susan Chapman - Treasurer Patricia Llodra

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Bethel First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield First Selectman Stephen Dunn
- Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton
- Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
- Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei

- New Canaan First Selectman Robert Mallozzi
- New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman
- New Milford Mayor David Gronbach
- Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra
- Norwalk Absent
- Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton

- Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Mayor David Martin
- Weston Alternate Selectman Chris Spaulding
- Westport First Selectman James Marpe
- Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

OTHERS ATTENDING

President of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association Theresa Santoro, CCM Executive Director Joseph DeLong, CCM Manager for Public Policy Randy Collins, Newtown First Selectman's Intern John Board, Ellen Graham of Senator Blumenthal's Office, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, DEMHS Region 1 Coordinator Robert Kenny, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator Thomas Vanini and Tracy Alston of Eversource.

Also, Executive Director of The Life Solution Center of Darien Maud Purcell, CTDOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson, Weston resident Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg, HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner, HARTransit Planner Harrison Wenchell, WestCOG staff members David Hannon, Michael Towle, Patty Payne, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Galen Wells, Robert Brinton, Elizabeth Esposito, Robert Sachnin and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 PM by Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Theresa Santoro, Chief Executive Officer of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association, welcomed WestCOG members to the Association's headquarters building. She provided an overview of the Association's non-profit healthcare services, in operation for 102 years. She was "delighted that WestCOG is making use of the VNA conference room for its meetings."

Pat Llodra introduced the Newtown Selectman's Intern John Board who attends Western Connecticut State University and is to graduate with a BA in Political Science.

UPDATE BY CT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

The guest speaker for the meeting was Joseph DeLong, Executive Director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Mr. DeLong spoke on the study CCM has commissioned to examine funding of municipal services and creative arrangements for regional and other efficiencies.

The goal is for municipalities to present their own funding plan to the legislature, rather than continue to receive top down piecemeal mandates that lack support at the local level, he said.

CCM President Mark Boughton contributed to the presentation. There was considerable discussion on this topic. It was agreed that WestCOG will review the report when it is released early in 2017.

CT DEMHS UPDATE

Reporting for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security were CT DEMHS Region 1 Coordinator Robert Kenny, serving the eight southern municipalities in WestCOG, and CT DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator Thomas Vanini serving the ten northern communities. Robert Kenny noted that the Region 1 September 26 Field Day in Westport was attended by 330 persons.

The two CT DEMHS representatives provided an overview on emergency management topics including the grant process for receiving communications equipment, improved web access to the state emergency operations center, revision of the state template for local emergency operations plans, upcoming shelter management training and record keeping for federal reimbursement of municipal emergency costs. Their remarks were followed by discussion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Weston resident Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg commented on the cancellation of negotiations to redevelop the Stamford Train Station garage with more parking and a large mixed-use development, recommending that WestCOG staff assist in defining future options.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 9/15/2016 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Jayme Stevenson, the minutes of the meeting of 9/15/2016 were unanimously

approved, with abstentions by Peter Tesei and Julia Pemberton who were not in attendance at that meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

July and August 2016 Financial Report: The Financial Report for the two months ending 8/31/2016, presented as an agenda attachment entitled “Operating Statement, Balance Sheet of Assets and Statement of Cash Flow”, was presented by Pat Llodra. Financial Manager Patty Payne contributed to the discussion.

Update by Election Monitor: This report was provided by Norwalk Attorney Galen Wells, serving on the staff as election monitor under a state grant to WestCOG. She noted her assignment is to provide training of election staffs, improve capability with technology, and enhance communications with registrars.

She is finding a great range of capabilities, from a large city to a small town with only a single polling place. At present registrars are being flooded with new registrations, many facilitated by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Copies of her press release entitled “Election Day Registration an Option of Last Resort” were distributed. Her remarks were followed by discussion of presidential ballots and other election matters.

Saved from Addiction Inc.: Jayme Stevenson overviewed the Town of Darien’s partnership with the innovative addiction recovery service provided by Saved from Addiction, Inc.

The basic premise of the new service model is that addiction patients often lack the emotional resources to make appointments to treat the many facets of their problem and coordinate recovery activities thereafter.

In response, Saved from Addiction provides a network of professionals, lab services, etc. at one location to address all of the patient’s needs. A core feature is use of a newly approved implant to administer medications reducing cravings, the first use of this implant technique in New England.

She then introduced Maud Purcell, Executive Director of The Life Solution Center of Darien, one of the collaborative organizations providing this comprehensive service. Ms. Purcell provided additional details, noting that private pay financing is utilized with costs less than out-patient hospitalization. The presentation was followed by discussion.

Proposal for Uniform Dues Formula: Pat Llodra, representing the Executive Committee, reviewed a memo in the agenda packet entitled “Proposal for a Uniform Dues Formula.” The Committee’s research found that an important step for regions like WestCOG that are products of consolidations has been the development of a uniform formula for dues. However, that WestCOG has not yet taken this step.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee has examined a number of potential formulas. Many are complex with components that change with some regularity. The consensus was to propose a simple formula: that beginning in FY2019, municipal dues be apportioned 50% by

the municipality's percent of the region's population, the other 50% by the municipality's percent of the region's land area.

In order to enable a smooth transition to the new formula, dues in FY2018 would be set at the midpoint between dues for FY2017 and the new formula as fully applied in FY2019. A table attached to the agenda entitled "Impact by Municipality of Proposed Dues Formula" displayed the proposed dues by municipality.

There was discussion. It was agreed that the proposed formula should be placed on the next WestCOG agenda for consideration.

APPLICATION BY SOUND MARINE SKILLS, INC.

Associate Planner Mike Towle reviewed a request from Sound Marine Skills, Inc. for permission to partner with WestCOG in applying for \$35,000 from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). While Sound Marine Skills is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, applicants for CIRCA funds are limited to municipalities and councils of government, he said.

The grant will be utilized to conduct research on nature-based means to mitigate severe storm damage. Conceptual designs will be prepared as to equipment and procedures for the restoration of coastal salt marshes within this region. Details as to these research activities were provided in an agenda attachment dated 10/2/1016 and entitled "Application for Funding for Abatement of Storm Surge."

If awarded, by agreement with Sound Marine Skills WestCOG's grant administration costs would be reimbursed from the grant, he said. After discussion of possible impacts on staff time resources the Council endorsed the request for collaboration.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Knickerbocker stated that the next WestCOG meeting will be held on November 17, 2016. There being no further business, on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by David Martin and voted unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.