

## APPROVED COUNCIL MINUTES

For the 1/23/2017 Regular Meeting  
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..... Absent  
Darien ..... First Selectman Jayme Stevenson  
Greenwich..... First Selectman Peter Tesei  
New Canaan..... First Selectmen Robert Mallozzi  
New Fairfield ..... Absent  
New Milford..... Mayor David Gronbach  
  
Newtown..... First Selectman Patricia Llodra  
Norwalk..... Chief of Staff Laoise King  
Redding ..... First Selectman Julia Pemberton  
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi  
Sherman..... Absent  
Stamford ..... Chief of Staff Michael Pollard  
Weston ..... First Selectman Nina Daniel  
Westport..... First Selectman James Marpe  
Wilton..... First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

### OTHERS ATTENDING

Kimberlee Morton and Stephanie Scavelli of Norwalk Transit, from HARTransit Richard Schreiner, Harrison Wenchell and Robert Yastremski, Newtown First Selectman's Intern John Board, and Eversource representatives Tracy Alston, Cathy Larson and their associate.

Also Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski, Ellen Grant representing Senator Blumenthal, other citizens, WestCOG staff members Robert Brinton, Patricia Payne, Elizabeth Esposito, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Nicole Sullivan, William Kenny, Patty Payne, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman and Jonathan Chew.

### CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker. Eversource representative Tracy Alston informed members that improved geographic specificity as to local power outages was now available to customers using

media to seek such information. Also that phone scammers are actively imitating Eversource employees informing you your electric power is about to be shut off, you must provide your Social Security number, etc.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of 12/15/2016 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by David Gronbach and seconded by Rudy Marconi, the minutes of the meeting of 12/15/2016 were unanimously approved.

**Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Adjustments:** Rob Sachnin provided background on proposed LOTICIP capital program changes. He noted that as municipal improvement projects progress, revisions to scopes, schedules and costs inevitably occur. There is therefore a periodic need to make adjustments to the LOTICIP capital program as requested, he said.

He reviewed two tables in the agenda packet entitled “Draft WestCOG LOTICIP – Southwestern Region Program dated 1/23/2017” and “Draft WestCOG LOTICIP – Housatonic Region Program dated 1/23/2017.” Proposed program adjustments, by project, were highlighted therein, he said.

Mr. Sachnin also noted that these revisions were discussed at the recent Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on January 11th, with the TAG recommending WestCOG endorsement of the revisions. There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Jayme Stevenson and seconded by David Gronbach, the requested LOTICIP program adjustments were unanimously approved.

**Uniform Dues Formula:** Pat Llodra, representing the Executive Committee, followed up on her recent presentation to the Council on this topic. She reviewed the latest draft dues formula as included in agenda Attachment 3b. The recommendation has municipal dues apportioned 50% by the municipal percent of the region’s population, the other 50% by the municipal percent of the region’s land area.

She said that in order to enable a smooth transition to the new formula, dues for FY2018 would be set at the midpoint between dues for FY2017 and the new formula as fully applied in FY2019. She also noted that the Executive Committee decided not to include an identical flat fee for all members due to its high impact upon towns with the smallest populations.

A discussion followed, in which it was noted that the impact on some members in terms of percentage change was higher than upon others. Then on a motion made by Steve Dunn and seconded by Rudy Marconi, the new formula was unanimously approved, except for an abstention by Mike Pollard.

**Election of Officers:** The three Nominating Committee members present, Steve Dunn, Julia Pemberton and Peter Tesei, then gave their report, recommending that the following slate of officers be elected this date:

*Chairman: Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson*

*Vice Chairman: New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman*

*Secretary: New Milford Mayor David Gronbach*

*Treasurer: Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra*

Then on a motion made by Steve Dunn and seconded by Rob Mallozzi, the slate as proposed was unanimously elected. Outgoing Chairman Matt Knickerbocker then reviewed his tenure, having served as Chairman of HVCEO and transitioned to be Chairman of successor WestCOG for its first two years.

Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson then assumed the duties of Chairman. She thanked outgoing Chairman Matt Knickerbocker for his fine service, guiding the new group through the complexities of the merger process and into its stable status today. That statement was followed by applause.

There was then a discussion of how best to make use of the experience of Matt Knickerbocker as immediate past chairman to the on-going work of the Executive Committee. On a motion made by Steve Dunn and seconded by Pat Llodra, it was voted unanimously to add this discussion item to the next agenda.

**Federal Rail Administration (FRA) Northeast Corridor Planning:** Francis Pickering addressed this issue, updating members on FRA's planning initiative. The FRA determined that their potential new routes across WestCOG and Connecticut should be deleted from further study, except for revised routing to bypass slow speed curves in Southeastern Connecticut.

However, that even without new alignments affecting the WestCOG area, speed and capacity upgrades along the existing coastal alignment could have significant impacts upon municipalities, especially in built up town center areas, he said. There was discussion including comment on potential impacts in Darien and Westport.

Michael Pollard stated that a consultant to Stamford is preparing an impact report on the FRA upgrade plan as it could affect his City, and that he will share the document with the membership. Ellen Grant, representative of Senator Blumenthal, stated that the Senator is monitoring this issue carefully.

Francis Pickering stated that the next comment deadline to FRA is on 1/31 and that it would best protect our interests to organize comments into a transmittal prior to that date. An authorization for him to proceed was then made by motion of Jayme Stevenson, second Rob Mallozzi, all aye.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Stevenson stated that the next WestCOG meeting will be held on February 23, 2017 at the office of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association. There being no further business, on a motion made by Rob Mallozzi and seconded by Rudy Marconi the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.