

APPROVED Council Minutes

for the 4/20/2017 Regular Meeting

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

Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman Susan Chapman
Secretary David Gronbach - Treasurer Patricia Llodra

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel..... First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
Bridgewater..... Absent
Brookfield Absent
Danbury..... Mayor Mark Boughton
Darien Alternate Senior Planner Fred Doneit
Greenwich..... First Selectman Peter Tesei

New Canaan..... First Selectman Robert Mallozzi
New Fairfield Absent
New Milford..... Absent
Newtown..... First Selectman Patricia Llodra
Norwalk..... Chief of Staff Laoise King
Redding Absent

Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi
Sherman..... First Selectman Clay Cope
Stamford Mayor David Martin
Weston First Selectman Nina Daniel
Westport..... First Selectman James Marpe
Wilton..... First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

OTHERS ATTENDING

CT DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, Patricia Cimarosa and Martin Fox of the Westport Transit District, Senior Legislative Associate Daniel Giungi of the CT Conference of Municipalities, Norwalk Transit CEO Kimberly Morton, Eversource Community Relations Specialist Garrett Sheehan, Richard Schreiner and Harrison Wenchell of HARTransit, and WestCOG staff members Francis Pickering, Patricia Payne, Robert Sachnin, Michael Sullivan, Michael Towle, Nicole Sullivan and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Treasurer Patricia Llodra.

FEATURED GUEST

Commissioner Robert Klee of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Pat Llodra introduced DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee, who made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the services of his Department. Topics he reviewed included upcoming federal budget reductions, components of recycling, electric vehicles and their charging stations, stormwater management, phosphorous removal from treatment plant discharges and other matters.

The presentation was structured as a dialogue with interaction by WestCOG members throughout. Discussion continued, after which the Commissioner was thanked for his presentation.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 3/16/2017 Minutes: After review and on a motion made Rob Mallozzi and seconded by Rudy Marconi, the minutes of the meeting of 3/16/2017 were unanimously approved, with abstentions by Lynne Vanderslice and Fred Doneit.

Quarterly Financial Report: Patty Payne presented the report for January thru March 2017, attached to the agenda and entitled "WestCOG Operating Statement and Balance Sheet." Pat Llodra commented that a revision of the format to more fully reflect grant type will soon be included.

There were questions and answers. Then on a motion made Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Rudy Marconi, the quarterly financial report was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Annual Report on Regional Services: Francis Pickering distributed a report entitled "WestCOG 2016 Annual Report." He overviewed recent progress with planning for regional services.

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP): Rob Sachnin stated that we will soon have projects proceeding to construction for the first time in this program; New Fairfield and Stamford will receive a check from CT DOT for project construction, New Milford next. He complimented the efforts of Robert Brinton, P.E., in managing LOTICIP project development.

Legislative Update: Francis Pickering noted that about 100 legislative proposals are currently being monitored. He commented on those that would impact the structuring and funding of COG regional services.

State Budget Update: There was then a discussion of proposed changes to responsibility for funding teacher retirement costs and other state budgetary issues affecting municipalities.

Snow Plow Routing Study: Francis Pickering updated members on the upcoming initiation of this planning study. There were comments and discussion.

Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) Study: Francis Pickering updated members on this topic, by which WestCOG has initiated an assessment of municipal CAMA, tax billing and collections systems, as well as related business practices and IT resources.

Local Road Accident Reduction Program Solicitation: Robert Sachnin reviewed LRARP funding, a federal source thru CTDOT for low-cost safety improvements on local roads.

Projects are submitted by COGs and then selected by CTDOT based on a benefit to cost ratio, he said. He overviewed program requirements and distributed memos entitled “2017 LRARP Methodology” and “CT DOT 2017 LRARP.”

Responsible Growth and TOD Grant Program Solicitation: Rob Sachnin notified members that CTOPM is requesting applications for its 2017 Responsible Growth and Transit Oriented Development Grant Program. He summarized the application process.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Ladders of Opportunity: GIS Analyst Michael Sullivan presented on this topic, noting that FHWA requires each MPO to factor “Ladders of Opportunity” into its transportation planning. He distributed a brochure entitled “Ladders of Opportunity Overview 2017” summarizing WestCOG involvement with Ladders, defined as an effort to induce positive social and economic impacts from the use of federal transportation funds.

A PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Sullivan displayed some of the demographic maps produced for Ladders analysis. He also demonstrated GIS tools that enable the mode of travel and travel time for any origin - destination pair to be quantified. Questions and answers followed.

OTHER BUSINESS / ADJOURNMENT

There was no other business. Pat Llodra then stated that the next WestCOG meeting will be held on May 18, 2017 at the office of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association. Then on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Rudy Marconi, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.