

Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials
Minutes
June 22, 2005

I. Selectman Jim McCusker greeted the Council and acquainted them with the neighborhood as the members assembled at the Aqua Restaurant overlooking Clinton Harbor. In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-chairman, Secretary Tony Palermo called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Minutes

Jim McCusker moved that the minutes of the May 26 meeting be approved as circulated.

The motion was seconded by Maryann Boord and unanimously approved.

III. Legislative Updates

Chairman pro-tem Palermo noted that no legislators were present and therefore there would be no reports.

Linda Krause distributed copies of a letter from Judy Gott, Co-Chairman of the I-91 (TIA) Transportation Investment Area Board to Oz Griebel, Chair of the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) concerning transportation funding and a shorter note regarding the Special Session funding of the Governor's Transportation Improvement Program which includes substitute SB1057 in support of Dial-a -Ride.

IV. Old Business

A. CERT

Mike Pace explained that he had "put the brakes on" the process of registering the regional CERT by forgetting that he had been appointed lead CEO. He mentioned that he is talking with the EM Directors. He explained that he considers their participation more important than any specific grant and noted that some of them have expressed concerns and feel that they could provide better leadership. The Emergency Management Directors already work across town lines.

Lt. Mike Spera who serves as Emergency Management Director for the Town of Old Saybrook announced that Valley Services has met and selected Neil Sullivan of Chester to serve as Chairman of the CERT. He will assume the position immediately after he retires from the UConn Health Center. The town of Old Saybrook has provided \$1,000 in seed money for the committee. Advertising for volunteers will start in late summer. The CERT will cooperate with Middletown. Lt. Spera reminded members that he sits on the State Emergency Management Coordinating Committee and the CERT is a sub-committee of that organization.

Lt. Spera assured the Council that no money has been lost because he had the rules changed at the state level.

Linda Krause asked if the Emergency Management Directors' Association have formally voted to serve as the CERT. Lt. Spera assured her that they have. When asked about minutes, he explained that do make an attempt to keep records.

Ms. Krause asked who will serve as contact person. It will be Neil Sullivan after he retires. In the meantime, it is Lt. Spera. Mike Pace will serve as the lead CEO. Mike Pace assured the Council that his concern was an organizational issue, not a personal issue.

Lt. Spera noted that the CERT intends to report to the CRVCEO on a quarterly basis.

Brad Parker moved that the Valley Shore Emergency Services be designated as the coordinator of the CERT for Region 9. The motion was seconded by Jim McCusker and unanimously approved.

B. Ethics Legislation

Martin Heft reported that nothing passed in the General Assembly this year regarding Ethics. He reported having conversations with State Representative Gail Hamm. After discussing the issue, Rep. Hamm did seem to understand that Selectman voting on a local budget that includes their salary is similar to a legislator voting on legislation that includes their salary.

Mike Pace reported that CRRA had to fight for economic survival. Rep. Caruso of Bridgeport, Rep. Drew of Fairfield and Rep. O'Rourke of Cromwell introduced a bill that would have required the State Treasurer to sign off on any expenditure over \$25,000. This would have hampered operations and raised TIP fees. Mike noted that Rep. O'Rourke was the only legislator to vote against his reappointment as Chairman of the CRRA.

3. LNG Proposal for Long Island Sound

Acting Chairman Palermo announced that the Town of Westbrook has gone on record as opposing the construction of a natural gas terminal in Long Sound. Mike Pace announced that Old Saybrook is collecting material about the proposal. Acting Chairman Palermo asked if the Council was ready to vote as a body. Mike Pace suggested that the towns be allowed to do due diligence prior to a regional vote.

It was acknowledged that the Connecticut Fund for the Environment has taken a stand against the proposal. Tim Griswold asked who, other than the gas company is in favor of it.

Tony Bondi noted that there is no point in taking a stand because the federal government will probably overrule any regional decisions.

Mike Pace suggested that a speaker be invited for July. It was agreed to do so.

D. Health District

The topic of a Health District will be addressed at 1:30 PM by a Committee of the Whole with Pam Kilby Fox of the State Health Department.

E. EMS

Acting Chairman Palermo reported that a letter from Mr. Kiley at Middlesex Memorial indicates that the change in the dispatch of Para-Medics is on hold.

F. Other Items

1. Dredging

Mike Pace announced that Senator Lieberman is introducing a bill that will include \$2,000,000 for the dredging of North Cove in Old Saybrook.

2. Brad Parker mentioned that East Haddam is remapping the Assessors' maps and making them GIS compatible. There are several inconsistencies with the old paper maps.

In discussion he was assured that since the previous maps are several decades old, the problem is not the GIS process but is more likely due to new surveys and other changes that have occurred over time. He was advised to refer to individual deeds. Linda Krause mentioned that Margot Burns, of the CRERPA staff, serves on the Governors Council on GIS. She urged any town that is converting to machine readable maps to be sure that the company they contract with does not place proprietary restrictions on the information.

3. Maryann Boord suggested that the Council decide on a new location for the September meeting. The Time Out Restaurant has been destroyed by fire. Mike Pace offered to host the meeting in Old Saybrook. Members discussed other sites in Durham. The matter will be decided at another meeting.

VI. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

Tony Palermo called for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Jim McCusker and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Palermo, Secretary