

**Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials
Minutes**

September 29, 2005

I. The Council gathered at noon at Camp Hazen in Chester and enjoyed salad, sandwiches and pizza provided by the camp. After lunch, the meeting was convened by Chairman David Denvir.

Martin Heft introduced Denise Learned, Executive Director of Camp Hazen who welcomed the group and gave a short review of the programs available at the camp.

II. Minutes

Martin Heft moved that the minutes of the July 28 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Maryann Boord and unanimously approved.

III. Legislative Updates

A. Representative Spallone

Representative Spallone reported that the Select Committee on Campaign finance reform is hard at work. In the previous session, the House of Representatives and the Senate each passed a reform bill. They are not entirely compatible.

The legislature will be faced with the issue of allowing Eminent Domain to be used for Economic Development. So far there has been one informational meeting, one hearing and one forum. A hearing is scheduled by the Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Spallone reported that the budget surplus is better than expected. This is scheduled to be a short session.

Martin Heft mentioned that the ESC new education cost sharing mandate requires towns to increase their spending on education by an amount equal to the increase in state funding. It creates another mandate. Rep. Spallone explained the rationale behind the bill and explained that the intended was to be sure that the money was used for education.

Chairman Denvir asked about the charge to the Broadwater Taskforce. Since the Taskforce was created by the Governor, Rep. Spallone did not have the details. Phil Miller asked about the STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) process. The form is on line. No time table has been set for making the awards. Chairman Denvir asked what the criteria are. Phil Miller explained that he understands that there is a preference for projects involving infrastructure and economic development.

Mike Pace asked about the need for such frequent revaluations. The topic brought forth a spirited discussion of the problem.

Rep. Spallone suggested that it is a topic that should be addressed by the Governor.

B. Congressman Simmons

Betty Wagner passed out information sheets on IHEAP, a home heating program and a letter opposing electricity rate increases.

Betty reported that Rob is spending even more time in Washington. The Connecticut staff does not see him as often but is in contact by Email.

V. Old Business

A. Emergency Preparedness

Martin Heft asked about the anticipated quarterly report on Emergency Management.

Mike Pace suggested that it would be appropriate to invite Bill Buckridge and Mike

Spera to make the report.

Chairman Denvir mentioned that he invited a representative of the Secretary of State to report on voting machine requirements. Since no one was able to come in September, he had scheduled it for October.

It was agreed that the Emergency Preparedness report is more important. CRERPA was asked to write to Mr. Buckridge and Lt. Spera and invite them to present their report.

Mike Pace agreed to host the meeting in Old Saybrook on October 26.

B. Broadwater

Mike Pace mentioned that he had brought the Broadwater situation to the attention of CCM and particularly to the attention of the Environmental and Legislative committees.

Concern should extend beyond the coast. Allowing a three mile long structure in The Race is giving away public property for private gain. The Sound is delicate now.

This is not a one shot deal. The next one will be here. He suggested that the council pass a resolution opposing the plant and that each town pass a similar resolution.

Phil Miller added that 39 towns have already passed resolutions. Tony Palermo stated that Westbrook passed one weeks ago.

Betty Wagner asserted that Rob Simmons is on record as being opposed to the project.

Mike Pace moved that the Council agree to an official position. The motion was seconded by Phil Miller and unanimously approved. Mike will send a collection of draft motions to David Denvir who will consolidate them.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Palermo, Secretary