

**Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials  
December 16, 2004  
Minutes**

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Denvir at 12:20 PM at the Inn at Saybrook Point.

**II. Minutes**

Phil Miller moved that the minutes be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Tony Palermo and unanimously approved.

**III. Legislative Update**

A. Congress

Betty Wagner said that Congressman Simmons asked her to attend the meeting and to wish everyone a wonderful holiday and a happy new year. Congress will reconvene after the first of the year.

**IV. Old Business**

EMS

Chairman Denvir noted that everyone has now had an opportunity to read the full report.

Maryann Boord mentioned that Durham is served by Valley Shore. Tony Palermo explained that although the transport is done by Valley shore, the EMT comes from KX.

Brad Parker commented that the report was not what he expected to get. He still has a lot of unanswered questions. He feels that the variations in the rate of collections are something that should be addressed by the hospital. Since the hospital makes an annual profit of more than 5.2 million dollars, the paramedic service could be considered a loss leader. Profit is made on the patients after they are delivered. Billing the towns would remove all incentive for the hospital to improve its operation.

Phil Miller added that no paramedic service is profitable. The profit comes down the line.

Tony Palermo noted that Middlesex would get the patients no matter who delivered them. He is interested in what other services the paramedics perform for the hospital when they are not out on calls. He agrees with Brad that it would wise to send out a RFP. He is concerned about how one should be written.

Chairman Denvir asked how many CEOs know if their ambulance service has a surplus.

Tony Palermo noted that ambulance services are separate, private corporations. It is correct for the service to keep the transport fees. It is the paramedic fee that is in question.

Martin noted that in Chester, the ambulance service is provided by the town.

George Dunn explained that a lot of the problem goes back to the original licensing of the Paramedics which is town by town. It is necessary to work with the legislature to give towns more control.

Chairman Denvir cited the need to clarify the legal status of the towns and of the hospital.

Mike Pace stated the report is off target. The towns should get their money back. The towns should not be held hostage. There should, among other things, be an allocation of cost and a review of the billing cycle. The hospital should calculate their added revenue from the delivery of the service.

Chairman Denvir declared that he would appoint a committee to continue to work on the problem. He asked members to contact the chair in hard copy writing with questions. Tony Palermo, George Dunn, Mike Pace, Brad Parker and Tim Griswold agreed to serve on the committee. Tim asked if ambulance services should be represented. It was agreed that the committee can draw on resources.

Alan Berggren moved that the chair be empowered to appoint the committee. The motion was seconded by Phil Miller and unanimously approved.

## **V. Committees**

### **A. ACIR**

Chairman Denvir believes that ACIR has not met recently.

### **B. Workforce**

Chairman Denvir reported on the Workforce meeting that he, Tony Palermo and Maryann Boord had attended in the morning. They has listened to a spirited speaker who expressed “doom and gloom” on the state of the American workforce. He suggested that children should be involved in career choices as early as possible. By 2008, 70,000,000 baby boomers will retire and depend on a much smaller group of workers. China and India are producing more college graduates that work for less money.

The report inspired a lively discussion about labor, education and where our country is going.

### **C. Legislative Committee**

Maryann Boord reported that CCM will set its priorities next week. Jamie Spallone sent word that he should have bills for submission by mid-January.

## **V. New Business**

A. Chairman Denvir reported that he had received an updated package of suggestions for Probate reform.

### **B. Election of Officers**

Chairman Denvir appointed Tony Palermo to chair the committee to select new officers. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Dick Smith and Maryann Boord agreed to serve on the nominating committee.

C. Meeting sites

Chairman Denvir noted that CRERPA had submitted a list of meeting dates but had not included places. He suggested that summer meetings be held on the shoreline. September will be in Durham. Tony Bondi noted that Haddam does not have a suitable restaurant. He offered to host a picnic. Phil wants to have Essex included in the list of host communities.

**VI. Other Business**

- A. Tony Bondi mentioned that CT Yankee is building a tower that should improve radio communication. Haddam Neck may have a tower and Verizon may build a tower at the firehouse.
- B. Phil Miller announced that he is going before the zoning commission in Essex to request that the Special Permit for the Household Hazardous Waste facility be amended to allow two more towns to join the program. The announcement was met with approval and offers of help.
- C. Brad Parker announced that a new law allows towns to bill for fire department services. It is enabling legislation that allows towns to act by ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Palermo, Secretary