



**LOWER CONNECTICUT VALLEY
SELECTMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization**

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**Wednesday, August 11, 2004
8:30 a.m.**

At

*******ESTUARY SENIOR CENTER*******

**220 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT
Amended Agenda**

LCVSA – Immediately following MPO Meeting

- (1) Call to Order**
- (2) Approval of July 14, 2004 minutes**
- (3) Speaker: Maryann Bergenty, CRRA – Presentation on
Recyclables**
- (4) New Business:**
 - a. Review of Probate Judge Issue**
- (5) Any Other Items – General Discussion**

Special Needs

Estuary MPO meetings occur regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30AM. Closed audio loops and/or a sign language interpreter will be made available upon request; the former upon two weeks notice and the latter, secured via the Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, with a minimum of three weeks notice. Foreign language translation is provided upon request with two weeks notice for translation of minutes or meeting attendance.

Will insert Spanish/ Chinese Translation

Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association
August 11, 2004
Minutes

Attendance:

Chester: Martin Heft
Clinton:
Deep River:
Essex:
Killingworth: David Denvir
Lyme: Bill Koch
Old Lyme: Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook: Mike Pace
Westbrook: Tony Palermo
Staff: Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Wini Olson
Guests: Mitzi Eilts, Director of the Estuary Council of Seniors, Nancy Clark, President of the Estuary Council of Seniors, Rep. James Spallone, Betty Wagner, representing Congressman Rob Simmons, Mike Bzdyra, CRRA, Mary Anne Bargenty, CRRA, Judge Deborah Pearl of Essex, Judge Bonnie Bennett of Chester, Judge (.. of Deep River, Judge Richard Lightfoot of Lyme, Judge Sylvia Peterson of Old Lyme, Judge Roger Goodnow of Old Saybrook, Judge Connie Vogel of Westbrook and Mike Sperra of the OSPD.

I. Chairman Pace called the meeting to order immediately after the close of the CREMPO meeting. The same people were in attendance.

II. Minutes

David Denvir moved that the minutes of the July 14 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Palermo and unanimously approved.

III. New Business

A. CRRA

Chairman Pace announced that Essex has some concern about the Local contract. Chairman Pace introduced Mary Anne Bargenty, Field Manager for CRRA. Ms. Bargenty announced that enforcement action has been taken against a hauler that does business in most of the CRE towns. The hauler has been dropping off cans and bottles but selling the newspaper. Ms. Bargenty also announced that CRRA has replaced the hauler at the Essex transfer station.

Chairman Pace interjected that changes have been made in 80% of the

Contracts reviewed so far by CRRA. Revenue from recycling helps to offset The TIP fee. Glass is a loser. Paper and cardboard produce income. MDC has been removed from Essex.

In reference to the contract with Essex, Ms. Bargenty explained that CRRA owns the transfer station in Essex. Previously, the Selectman's Association had voted to approve the contract renewal. No one from Essex was present at that meeting and Essex has continuing concerns. Amy Cabaniss requested that Essex submit a summary of their concerns. Essex raised questions about the surcharge that pays the host community benefit (to Essex) and supports the recycling coordinator, and requested additional information on how this is handled elsewhere. No other community in the State is paid a Host Community benefit; therefore there is no comparable model.

Selectman Miller called CRERPA on the Tuesday before the meeting and explained that since he had not received an agenda, he scheduled another appointment that conflicts with the regularly scheduled LCVSA meeting.

In all other cases, CRRA owns the land. No other host community receives a benefit payment. In the case of Essex, the host community benefit is paid by a surcharge on the tipping fees. \$30,000 goes directly to Essex each year. Speaking for CRRA, Mike Pace asserted that he will ask his staff to contact Essex again. The previous contract expired on July 1.

Martin Heft noted that the association has voted and has the authority to sign the contract. He suggested that it can be enacted with all but one signature.

Linda Krause noted that money from the surcharge was used to help plan and oversee the construction of the Household Hazardous waste Facility in Essex. Tony Palermo asked who the contract is with. It is with CRERPA acting on behalf of the Selectmen's Association? No CRERPA representative signed the previous contracts. They have traditionally been signed by each of the nine Selectmen.

Chairman Pace noted that he prefers not wear two hats. He asked Vice-Chairman Denvir to follow up on the possibility of going forward with eight towns if necessary.

B. ECS Grant

Chairman Pace reported that the paperwork has been submitted for on behalf of the ECS for a \$700,000 grant to rehabilitate their building in Old Saybrook.

C. Probate Court

Judge Pearl of Essex spoke on behalf of the assembled Probate Judges. She explained that they perform a critical service. The Probate courts were established by the legislature of the State of Connecticut. They are self-funded. The towns are expected to supply space and technical support. The judge and staff are paid from the fee system. A portion of the fees are sent to the state-wide Judicial Assembly. The Assembly has declared that there is a

financial crisis because of the impending phasing out of the succession tax in 2006. Judge Lawlor failed to obey the order of the legislature to create a substitute form of calculating fees. The State removed \$15,000,000 from the fund. Health care for the local court officials is partially paid for by the fund. City courts do need help. Small towns pay into the fund.

Tim Griswold asked about pensions. The judges replied that they are self funded. Problems exist such as small towns not having access to updated software. Judges believe that the \$3,000,000 annual administrative costs are being used to eliminate local service.

Chairman Pace suggested a study of the cost effectiveness of local courts versus consolidated courts and commented that on the delivery-side, local always is best.

D. Emergency Management

Linda Krause announced that a summit meeting of the Emergency Management Team for District 9 will be held in Old Saybrook at 7 PM at a place to be announced. Selectmen, Emergency Management Directors, Health Directors, Public Works Managers, Police, Fire Departments and other crucial members of the team should attend from each of the seventeen towns.

Mike Spera announced that notices will be sent out through CRERPA to the Selectman.

Chairman Pace stressed that it is important to involve the Board of Selectman to insure that the second and/ or third Selectmen are aware of the process and can take over if the First Selectman is incapacitated.

Turning to Representative Spallone, Chairman Pace suggested that he, Congressman Simmons and all other legislators representing the 17 towns be included in the invitation.

E. Reports

1. Legislative.

Betty Wagner had no report. She noted that she comes to the meetings to stay aware of the issues facing the communities and to alert the congressman .

2. "Pay as you throw"

David Denvir announced that a year ago Killingworth announced plans for a "pay as you throw" program. It never was enacted. The very thought of paying for the privilege of disposing of garbage inspired residents to increase their level of recycling by 36%

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold

Secretary