

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE NHCOG MEETING OF November 13, 2014

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein	Canaan (Falls Village), Patricia Allyn Mechare
Burlington, Ted Shafer	Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway
Goshen, Robert Valentine	Hartland, Wade Cole
Harwinton, Michael Criss	Kent, Bruce Adams
New Hartford, Daniel Jerram	Norfolk, Susan Dyer
Salisbury, Curtis Rand	Torrington, Elinor Carbone
Warren, Craig Nelson	Washington, Mark Lyon
Winchester, Candace Bouchard	Winchester, Dale Martin

Others in Attendance:

William Youell, DESPP	Dan Soule, LCD
Carey Thompson, DESPP	Stephen Verbil, DESPP
Wendy Rego, UConn	Jennifer March-Wackers, CRCOG
Sandra Huber, OPM	Robert Rubbo, TAHD
Leslie Polito, TAHD	Frank Shinneman, Salisbury
Chuck Burnham, CL&P	Jim Shultz, LCD
Eric Epstein, LCD	Jon Barbagallo, LCD
Gary Brunoli, TFD	Bernie Harrington, LWV
Richard Lynn, NHCOG Staff	Media Representatives
Darlene Krukar, NHCOG Staff	

1. Call to Order, Opportunity for Public Comment. The meeting, held at the Cooperative Extension Meeting Room UConn Torrington, was called to order by Chairman Don Stein at 10:07 a.m. There was no public comment.
2. History and Overview of Proposed Changes to Funding Formula for Connecticut's Public Safety Answering Points and Implications for Litchfield County Dispatch. Bill Youell, Director of DESPP Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, stated that there are 7 regional PSAPs in Connecticut which include 77 towns. There is a 911 surcharge that funds the PSAPs. The current formula takes into account the population of the PSAP, the number of 911 calls received, and the number of towns that the PSAP covers. The smaller PSAPs believe they are unfairly funded as a result of using the number of towns in the PSAP as part of the formula. A consultant study, known as the Kimble study, concluded that the formula for funding was not entirely equitable. The pool of money available for PSAPs is approximately 4 million dollars. The proposed new formula eliminated the town weight factor and is based solely on population and number of 911 calls. Mr. Youell stated that there is still room for input in finalizing the formula. Stephen Verbil stated that LCD is receiving \$36.38 per call, Tolland County is receiving \$25.14 per call, and Valley Shore is receiving \$11.70 per call. There is thus a wide disparity in payment per call. With the new formula, LCD

would receive \$22.17 per call, Tolland County would receive \$23.33 per call, and Valley Shore would receive \$20.13. The new formula would make the per call subsidy closer among the PSAPs. The amount is not the same due to the population factor in the formula, 75% is based on the call factor and 25% is based on population. Dan Soule distributed a handout showing how the change in formula will affect LCD funding. He stated that when LCD took on the Torrington Police Department the number of calls that they handle increased by approximately 600% and a lot of them are not 911 calls but rather the 10-digit number for routine calls. There is no provision in the funding formula for these 10-digit calls. Stephen Verbil reviewed the regulation process. Sue Dyer asked why the capital grant funding is being removed. Stephen Verbil stated that these funds will now be included in the total regional pool of funds. Discussion followed. Mr. Youell stated that the funding formula was never intended to fully fund PSAPs. Gordon Ridgway expressed concern that the proposed funding formula change has the effect of penalizing the PSAPs that have been successful in regionalizing as encouraged by state policy. Don Stein asked if there is a legislative way of increasing the funds available. Bill Youell stated that the subsidy is capped at 75 cents and it is now set at 70 cents. Dan Soule distributed handouts showing how the proposed change in funding will affect LCD and their member towns. Don Stein asked that this topic be put on the COG agenda for the December meeting for further discussion.

3. Update on the Nutmeg Network and Financial Assistance Opportunities for Municipalities. Wendy Rego distributed and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Nutmeg Network. There are two networks: the PSDN (Public Safety Data Network) and the CEN (Connecticut Education Network). Members to the network include: K-12 schools, higher education, libraries, museums, businesses (open access), public television, municipalities, state agencies and public safety. Discussion followed on the libraries. The state has invested millions of dollars on the system and they want the towns to be able to benefit from this. Wendy Rego stated that they are entering their second year of this program and the second and final year for municipal funding assistance. She stated that 20 municipalities are now connected to the Network, and 58 towns submitted and were awarded funds for the fiber build-out under the first year of the grant program. Sandy Huber reviewed the grant application process and the deadlines. She stated once the three pieces of paperwork are submitted the towns are eligible for grant funding. Towns are not committed until a grant award is signed. Jennifer March-Wackers reviewed some of the municipal benefits of the Nutmeg Network, including enhanced inter-town communication opportunities. Discussion followed.
4. Ebola Preparations in the Regional Area . Leslie Polito gave an update on the Ebola virus internationally, within the United States, and locally. TAHD has met with area public safety officials and set up a unified command post at its Torrington office that would be able to respond quickly to a suspected case. She stated that TAHD would have the ability to monitor quarantined individuals and track people with whom they had been in contact with. She stated that TAHD has been working with Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and other groups to get them trained and get them informed. The TAHD is responsible for monitoring but not treating any cases of suspected Ebola.

Leslie encouraged support for having larger, regional hospitals be appointed to handle any cases rather than having all small hospitals try to handle cases on their own.

5. Administrative Items.

- a.* On a motion by Craig Nelson and seconded by Mark Lyons, the NWCCOG treasurer's report for 9/2014 was unanimously approved.
- b.* On a motion by Craig Nelson and seconded by Sue Dyer, the LHCEO financial statement for 9/2014 was unanimously approved.
- c.* On a motion by Craig Nelson and seconded by Sue Dyer, the NHCOC minutes from the 10/9/2014 regular meeting and the financial statement for 9/2014 were unanimously approved. Dan Jerram abstained.
- d.* On a motion by Bob Valentine and seconded by Michael Criss, the NHCOC members unanimously authorized the NHCOC to submit an application to the Wiederhold Foundation for Regional Animal Shelter funding.
- e.* On a motion by Michael Criss and seconded by Ted Shafer the NHCOC members unanimously endorsed Goshen's Rural Collector Program project.
- f.* Rick Lynn stated that we were awarded a RPI grant for purchasing two material screeners which will be housed in Torrington and Washington. On a motion by Bob Valentine and seconded by Craig Nelson, the NHCOC members unanimously approved the authorizing resolution for the material screeners included in the agenda packet.
- g.* On a motion by Michael Criss and seconded by Sue Dyer, the NHCOC members unanimously authorized the NHCOC to resubmit a RPIP application for the Regional Animal Shelter in the amount of \$875,000.00.
- h.* On a motion by Bob Valentine and seconded by Candace Bouchard, the NHCOC members unanimously endorsed an ICE Program pre-application for a third sweeper for the Public Works Equipment Cooperative. This will require town meeting approval from the participating municipalities.
- i.* After discussion, on a motion by Craig Nelson and seconded by Wade Cole, the proposed NHCOC meeting schedule for 2015 was unanimously approved.

6. Committee Updates.

- a. Northwest Hills Human Services Coordinating Council.* Mayor Carbone stated the NWCT Community Council meets every other month and may be able to serve as the Human Services Coordinating Council for our area. She will be meeting with the Community Council in January to discuss this opportunity and will report back to the COG.
- b. Public Works Equipment Cooperative.* Wade Cole reported things are running smoothly and the Road Supervisor Association agreed to a modest increase in the hourly rental rates for 2015 to cover increasing maintenance costs as the equipment ages.
- c. Public Safety Task Force and DEMHS Region 5.* Tom Vannini was not in attendance. Mark Lyon stated that there is training funding available if there are any teams in the local towns that could use some training for regional use. Don Stein suggested that training be given to EMS teams for writing plans.

7. Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Sue Dyer, the NHCOG unanimously endorsed the applications prepared by Torrington and Kent for CT Main Street Preservation of Place funding. Don Stein stated that on December 17th stormwater hearings will be held by DEEP and he plans to attend and present testimony on behalf of the NHCOG. Bob Valentine would like the Uniform Chart of Accounts to be on a future agenda. Pat Mechare stated that she received a Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects from ConnDOT and Canaan's attorney advised her not to sign it. Rick Lynn reported that the new office is framed and they are working on the wiring. Candace Bouchard thanked the towns for their support last week on Highland Lake. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 pm.