

SCRCOG

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

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TOWN CLERK

TO: SCRCOG Board Members
FROM: First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*
DATE: January 25, 2024
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Board Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2024

Present:

Bethany	First Selectwoman Paula Cofrancesco, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Branford	First Selectman James Cosgrove
East Haven	Mayor Joseph Carfora
Guilford	First Selectman Matthew Hoey
Hamden	Mayor Lauren Garrett, <i>Treasurer</i>
Madison	First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, <i>Secretary</i>
Meriden	Acting City Manager Emily Holland
Milford	Mayor Anthony Giannattasio
New Haven	Mayor Justin Elicker
North Branford	Town Manager Michael Downes
North Haven	First Selectman Michael Freda
Orange	First Selectman James Zeoli, <i>Chair</i>
Wallingford	Mayor Vincet Cervoni
West Haven	Mayor Dorinda Borer
Woodbridge	First Selectman Mica Cardozo

SCRCOG Staff Carl Amento, Laura Francis, Jim Rode, Christopher Rappa, Benjamin Lovejoy, Stephanie Camp, Gabriel Filer, Tatum Thomas, Joan Paglinco, Amealia Maynard

Guests:

Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg, *REX Development*; Garrett Eucalitto, Kevin Tedesco, Jen Pacacha, and Pam Sucato, *CT Department of Transportation*; Mario Marrero, *Greater New Haven Transit District*; Al Carbone and Mike Anderson, *United Illuminating*; Lou Mangini, *Office of U.S. Senator Rosa DeLauro*; Jameson Foulke, *Office of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy*; Betsy Gara, *COST*; Nan Birdwhistell, *Murtha Cullina*; Mark Zaretsky, *NH Register*, Pamela Roach, *SCRCOG Solid Waste & Recycling Consultant*, Nicole Velardi, *DEMHS*, Keyri Ambrocio, *Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce*, Brian O'Connor, *CCM*, Nicoletta Bivens, *Regional Water Authority*, Joseline Tlacomulco, *City of New Haven*, Ben Fink, *Community Engagement Consultant*, Sarah Bromley, *City of Milford Resident*.

NOTE: The January SCRCOG Board meeting was a hybrid meeting

1. Call to order and Introductions

Chairman Zeoli called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. All present introduced themselves.

2. Presentation: Garrett Eucalitto, CT Department of Transportation Commissioner

Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto gave a presentation related to the three focus areas at the CTDOT which were safety, accessibility and sustainability.

3. **Adopt Minutes of November 15, 2023 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)**

Chairman Zeoli referred to the minutes of the SCRCOG Meeting of November 15, 2023 which were included in the agenda packet on pages 3-7. Mayor Garrett made a motion to approve. First Selectwoman Cofrancesco seconded. Motion passed. Mayor Cervoni, First Selectman Cardozo, Mayor Borer and Mayor Giannattasio abstained.

4. **Adopt Minutes of December 14, 2023 SCRCOG Special Meeting (motion)**

Chairman Zeoli referred to page 8. Mayor Garrett made a motion to approve. First Selectwoman Cofrancesco seconded. Motion passed. Mayor Cervoni, First Selectman Cardoz, Mayor Borer and Mayor Giannattasio abstained.

5. **Treasurer's Report for month ending 12/31/23**

Chairman Zeoli referred to pages 9-11. Mayor Garrett reported there is \$2.9 million in total assets of which \$1.3 million is in cash and investments. There is \$460,000 due from the CTDOT and \$131,000 is due from DEMHS. All expenses appear to be appropriate for a one-month period. Chairman Zeoli made a motion and First Selectwoman Lyons seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **MPO Business**

a. **Resolution to Approve FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Thirty-Two (motion)**

Deputy Director Francis referred to page 24-25 of the attached. First Selectman Hoey made motion and First Selectman Cosgrove seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. **Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreements for FY 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Consultant Services (motion)**

Deputy Director Francis referred to page 26 of the attached. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectwoman Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

c. **Adopt Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign agreements with CTDOT (motion)**

Deputy Director Francis referred to page 27 of the attached. Motion made by First Selectwoman Cofrancesco and seconded by First Selectman Hoey. Motion passed unanimously.

d. **Approval of Salary Adjustment for New Hire: Transportation Planner/GIS and Data Manger (motion)**

Deputy Director Francis noted this was approved by the Executive Committee. Motion made by First Selectwoman Cofrancesco and seconded by First Selectman Hoey. Motion passed unanimously.

e. **Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report**

Deputy Director Francis advised the Transportation Team is close to completing the scoping of the studies and will be looking for support from the municipalities to participate on Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) for the Freight and Mobility Studies. Deputy Director Francis introduced Tatum Thomas, Transportation Planner and GIS/Data Manager. Francis advised the Transportation Team is setting up meetings with the new CEOs to go over existing transportation projects.

f. Transportation Staff Report

Jim Rode reported on LOTCIP. We need to spend down the balance of \$67 million. The Transportation Team will meet with any municipality to brainstorm on projects. North Branford is working on the Twin Lakes Road project, Guilford submitted a new application for an open road project raising roadways and rebuilding a seawall. New Haven submitted a new application for Howard Avenue. New Haven is also working on a road reconstruction project and submitted final design plans for the Water Street cycle track project, the Quinnipiac Avenue reconstruction project and the Valley Street traffic calming project. Jim also advised of the West Haven projects for Front Avenue, Frontage Road and Spring Street.

g. Greater New Haven Transit District Report

Mario Marrero reported on ADA trips. New Haven recorded 9,000 trips; Hamden recorded 4,500 trips; West Haven and North Haven both recorded 2,200 trips; and Branford recorded 1,800 trips. The Board passed the resolution for Town member dues and there will not be any increase this year. There are several Board member vacancies. There are four quarterly board meetings. They will be receiving 26 new vehicles between February and April.

h. CT Rides Report

No report. Chairman Zeoli did refer to attachment.

7. COG Business

a. Nominating Committee Report for Calendar year 2023 Officers and Committees

Chairman Zeoli referred to page 28 of the attached. First Selectman Freda announced the new Board, Executive Committee, and Transportation Committee members, as well as the members of the Administrative & Personnel Subcommittee. First Selectman Hoey made a motion and Mayor Cardozo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Election of Officers and Appointment of Committees (motion)

Chairman Zeoli introduced the new Chairwoman, First Selectwoman Paula Cofrancesco.

c. Acceptance of Gavel by New Chair

Chairman Zeoli passed the gavel to the newly appointed Chairwoman Cofrancesco.

d. Adopt Resolution to appoint SCRCOG Bank Signatories (motion)

Chairwoman Cofrancesco referred to page 29 of the attached. Mayor Garrett made a motion and First Selectwoman Lyons seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Discussion and Action on Transition Plan After Recent Staff Departure (motion)

Chairwoman Cofrancesco advised this was discussed at the Executive Committee level and is an administrative action item. First Selectman Hoey explained the change in title from Director of Regional Planning and Municipal Services to Director of Regional Planning due to the amount of work from the grants. There will be a vacancy for Municipal Services Coordinator. The Executive Committee also requested an organizational chart with job descriptions. Executive Director Amento also mentioned a change in job title to Senior Regional Planner due to additional responsibilities and a salary increase.

f. Presentation by Ben Fink on SCRCOG's Community Conversations Program.

Ben Fink shared the role of the Community Conversations Program working with the needs of the Municipalities. Chair Cofrancesco advised there is an attachment in packet.

g. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Amento advised that there is a minor revision to the preliminary dues. There was an edit to the population data. Amento also advised that an orientation packet is being prepared for the new CEOs which will include a SCRCOG organizational chart and job descriptions. He also advised of the Cyber Security Grant of \$2.2 million. NOVUS is doing the pre-assessments. SCRCOG also received a \$350,000 grant from DEEP for a composting facility.

h. Review of SCRCOG January Newsletter

Executive Director Amento referred to pages 33-49 of the attached.

i. Regional Planning Staff Report

Ben Lovejoy advised he will be transitioning to a new position with the CT Department of Housing. Ben discussed the increased percentage of homelessness in our region. Stephanie Camp advised that SCRCOG is hosting a tour today of the region's supportive services for residents experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Stephanie also advised a draft of the Priority Climate Action Plan was released and is on the website where you can provide feedback in which there will be a feedback session held on February 6th at 6 pm. Stephanie then advised the team is working hard to navigate the possibility of applying for an implementation grant through Phase 2 of the CPRG program and the next steps.

j. Regional Planning Commission January Action Table

Chairwoman Cofrancesco advised the action table is informational and can be found on page 50.

k. Sustainable CT Update

No report.

l. REX Development Report

Barbara Malmberg reported REX is working on the annual update for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy which is required by the USED A and REX is reaching out to all towns in the region. Barbara also advised if anyone has interest in the new proposed Brownfields Regulations, there will be a luncheon held at SCROG or via Zoom tomorrow at 12 pm with Nancy Mandell, an environmental attorney.

m. Congressional Reports

Lou Mangini advised the newly elected officials that Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office and the senators office helps constituents and municipalities communicate with the federal government. Lou also mentioned they are working with New Haven to connect them with staff at the Department of Commerce for a particular project with letters of support. He also mentioned Hamden is looking to purchase trucks, and as long as Hamden is under contract, it is an obligation. Jameson Foulke from Senator Muphy's office offered to meet with the newly elected officials as well. He also

advised the new congressional spending applications will be coming out soon. First Selectwoman Lyons asked where the budget stands. Lou explained they have not passed the FY24 budget that was due October 1st. They have passed two continuing resolutions that bring half the bills to March 1st and the other half a week later. The Congresswoman is confident the FY24 budget will pass by the time the continuing resolutions expire, within the next 5-6 weeks. Once passed, which includes all of the congressional league directed funding projects, it will move along with it. Mayor Garrett asked which departments will have availability for the congressional spending in FY25 budget. Lou advised it will be similar.

n. State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST

Brian O'Connor from CCM reported there may be a special session next week on EVs and phasing out the sale of gas-powered cars by 2035. Speaker Ritter advised they are trying to create flexibility on the phase out and timeline and if it includes emergency and public works vehicles. There will be a board to revisit in three years to see if it is still feasible. Some key agenda items CCM is working on was the recruitment of firefighters, police officers and EMTs. Additionally, CCM is looking for increased funding for affordable housing or transit-oriented development, as well as looking at trash to energy expansion. Mayor Elicker asked if CCM is taking a position on the EV special session. Brian stated they have not until they see the actual language, but CCM weighed in during the regulatory processing to support the goals of what is trying to be achieved but do not think there is infrastructure in place to meet the goals. In addition, he is concerned with repairing EVs and is worried about the use of emergency vehicles, if it is included.

Betsy Gara stated COST is paying attention to the special session and what the parameters on emissions regulations would be. Betsy also mentioned the COST legislative platform includes several recommendations which includes the match issue Laura Francis raised with the CTDOT Commissioner, as well as supporting efforts to move transit-oriented development and a proposal to regionalize the Fair Rent Commissions. The COST town meeting is on February 8th at the Aqua Turf.

o. DEMHS Report

Nicole Velardi gave a presentation on DEMHS on behalf of the newly elected officials.

8. Regional Cooperation/Other Business

No report

9. Adjournment

First Selectman Hoey made a motion to adjourn. First Selectman Cardozo seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*