

MINUTES OF THE 2/20/19 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Fred Allyn III, Ledyard; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Uργο, North Stonington; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Jim Rivers, Windham. Military Liaison: Captain Paul Whitescarver, U.S. Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Emily Boushee, Senator Murphy's Office; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Jen Granger, UCFS; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Dominick Celtruda; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Tom Kasprzac, Off Shore Wind Consultant; Teresa Jackson, Pat Benzes, Eversource; Nancy Bulkeley, Dominion; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Cathy Zall, New London Homeless Hospitality Center; Jeannie Millstein, New London Human Services; Cara Hart, CREC; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 1/16/19:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 1/16/19 (Lyden, Congdon). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the February Treasurer's Report (Congdon, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director highlighted the letter to Governor Lamont concerning State Pier in New London which was contained in the Communications section of the agenda packet.

8. Guest Speakers:

- A. New London Mayor Michael Passero, Cathy Zall, New London Homeless Hospitality Center Executive Director, Jeannie Millstein, New London Director of Human Services

Mayor Passero thanked the SCCOG for allowing the topic of the homeless Hospitality Center to be presented this morning. He referenced the SCCOG's previous assistance in keeping this shelter open. He said that New London was proud to be the home to the region's homeless center, but that the cost of providing services to the center was being borne solely by New London taxpayers. He said the cost of these services needs to be shared by all towns in the region.

Ms. Zall explained the services offered at the Homeless Hospitality Center. She said that the Center was focused on providing these services to all residents of New London County. She said that 81% of those staying at the overnight shelter are from southeastern Connecticut. She said that the regionalization of these services is important, and noted that there would be duplication of positions and services if every town in the region had their own homeless shelter. She said this regional approach is working, with the number of days stay down below the state average. A recent in-depth two-month look at their clients revealed that 40% have documented mental illness, and over 50% report struggling with substance abuse, both factors which have a huge impact on the New London Police and Fire Departments. She said still other clients at the shelter come directly from being released from prison, with no real plan going forward. She said these clients would impact any town, but because they are concentrated in New London, they impact the neighbors of the Homeless Hospitality Center. She concluded by saying that while the benefits of regionalizing a homeless shelter are real, the impact to City of New London services like Police and Fire are significant.

Ms. Millstein said New London is grateful for the support that towns provide to the Homeless Hospitality Center, but said that the City could use more help. She said the City is in conversation with both the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, as well as local hospitals, to improve this situation.

Mr. Allyn requested that detailed demographic data be provided.

Mr. Congdon asked if the Homeless Hospitality Center received any state aid. Ms. Zall answered some, but not enough.

Mr. Pianka asked if the Homeless Hospitality Center contemplated making a pro rata funding request to the towns. Ms. Zall responded that towns currently do provide funds but not based on any formula, with Town of Groton providing the most funds at \$7,000 and Franklin the smallest amount of \$100 among those towns

that do contribute. She said while these funds help the Homeless Hospitality Center, they do not support the City of New London which provides services to the shelter.

Mr. McDaniel stated that there are some barriers to towns providing funding, with Montville's charter restricting contributions to \$1,000 or less unless the Town has a seat on the board of the receiving institution. Ms. Zall said she understands that, but if regionalization of this service is to work this problem has to be addressed.

Mr. Lyden said he agreed that this is an issue for all SCCOG municipalities. He asked if there was a need for any legislation. Ms. Millstein responded yes, and that if it came through the SCCOG, it would have more impact.

Mr. Simmons noted his position on the Governor's Transition Team shared services committee, which he said referenced the SCCOG's Shared Services Study. He said the sharing of homeless services is consistent with that study.

B. Cara Hart, Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)

Ms. Hart provided a demonstration of her agency's online cooperative purchasing tool called MarketPlace.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. New London TIGER Grant Application for funds to Expand Parking Garage

The Executive Director said that Mr. Carey Redd, New London Director of Parking, and New London Mayor Michael Passero met with the Executive Committee earlier this month where they outlined New London's intent to apply for a TIGER grant, in the amount of \$15 Million, to expand the City owned parking garage on Water Street by 400 parking spaces. The expansion recognizes the demand that the planned National Coast Guard Museum will have on parking; the State's \$18 Million commitment to fund a pedestrian bridge from the garage to the Museum will be used as the local match for this grant. He said the Executive Committee recommended that the SCCOG provide a letter in support of New London's TIGER grant application.

MOTION: That the SCCOG provide a letter of support for the New London application for TIGER grant funds in the amount of \$15 Million for the purpose of expanding the City-owned parking garage on Water Street (Grant, Simmons). So voted unanimously.

2. Draft FY 2019-2045 SCCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The Executive Director explained the public review schedule for SCCOG's draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Copies of the draft plan were distributed to the members of the Executive Committee, which also functions as the SCCOG Transportation Committee; the full Plan document can be found online at the SCCOG web site. The Executive Director stated that the results of CTDOT's air quality analysis has now been received and the 30 day public comment period began on February 11th; a public hearing has been scheduled at the SCCOG office for 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27th. He said the MTP will be scheduled for action at the March 20th SCCOG meeting.

3. Other

The Executive Director stated these items were covered in the Executive Committee's written report contained in the agenda packet.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Chairman Sparkman stated that the Executive Committee had received a report concerning two pieces of legislation that the Colchester Assessor is monitoring; he thanked Mr. Shilosky for the work of his Assessor in this regard.

Discussion ensued about possible additional SCCOG comments regarding additional legislation or comments on proposed legislation. In response to a request by Mr. Urgo, it was agreed that staff would place the SCCOG Legislative agenda on the next Executive Committee meeting agenda, and email all SCCOG CEOs with the date and time of that March 4th meeting.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. McDaniel noted the recent news article reporting on Norwich Mayor Nystrom's letter of support for the joint-venture casino proposed by the two Tribes. He said Montville has written a similar letter and he urged other towns to do so.

D. Military Command Representative

No report.

E. Congressional Office Report

No report.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported that she was working with EB on a May 29th major supplier event that seCTer's PTAC program is hosting.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

H. SEAT

No report.

I. Regional Water Committee

No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded that FY 2018 homeland security MOAs and resolutions are past due to the SCCOG office, noting that only a few remain to be turned in.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan stated that the RHSCC met on February 15th, and that they are awaiting the final shared services report which is being corrected by staff.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury said she was compiling a list of what they do to support its member towns; Make Music Day is June 21, and she requested SCCOG CEO support for this event such as waiving of permit fees for use of a municipal venue.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director acknowledged Eversource's new Community Relations Specialist Teresa Jackson who was in the audience; reminded that 4Ward Planning, a consultant to the SCCOG, was in the process of setting up phone interviews with SCCOG CEOs regarding the fiscal impact model project; said on Friday, February 22nd, at 8:30 a.m. there would be a meeting at the SCCOG office for any SCCOG member interested in sharing Human Resources services; and said that staff had sent out notice of a TAP grant pre-submittal meeting on March 8th at 2:00 p.m.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2019.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m. (McDaniel, Steward). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Allyn III, Secretary