

Capitol Region Council of Governments
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Municipal Services Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
12 Noon

* Meeting access is remote only, consistent with provisions specified in Executive Order No. 7B. This meeting was recorded. Audio is available at: https://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/GMT20211019-160155_Recording.mp3

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Peter Souza, Chair
Grace Tiezzi
Stanley Hawthorne
Bob Skinner
John Elsesser
Lori Spielman
Richard Johnson
Robert Lee
John Mehr
Melissa Appleby
David Nourse
Lisa Hancock

Town/Organization

Windsor
Avon
Bloomfield
Canton
Coventry
Ellington
Glastonbury
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
Tolland

CRCOG Staff

Kimberly Bona
Aaliyah Miller
Robyn Nichols
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG
CRCOG
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CRCOG

Guests

Dustin Nord

Chairperson Mr. Peter Souza called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

1. Adoption of Minutes: September 14, 2021

Mr. Souza requested a motion to adopt the minutes. Lori Spielman made a motion to adopt the September 14, 2021, Municipal Service Committee minutes as presented. Lisa Hancock seconded the motion and the motion carried.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Discussion: ARPA: Potential Transformational Regional Projects

Ms. Yoder provided a brief recap on the discussion that was held at the September Policy Board meeting regarding regional opportunities for ARPA. She stated two major items emerged from said discussion.

- 1) Consideration for municipalities to set aside up to 2% of county allocation of ARPA towards a transformations regional project.
- 2) Smaller towns have expressed interest in the reporting requirements of ARPA.

Mr. Souza opened the floor for discussion among committee members regarding potential projects that would like to see pursued that require significant funding.

Discussion ensued regarding potential transformational regional projects. The following projects of interest were agreed upon to bring to the Policy Board for consideration:

- ARPA Technical Assistance/Reporting
- Workforce Development as outlined in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or other activity advancing CEDS action plan
- Autonomous Vehicle Research Center
- Solid Waste Crisis
- Regional Code Enforcement / Building Official, possibly leveraging existing health districts
- GIS upgrade

4. Status Reports

- GIS/Parcel Finder

Mr. Snowden provided an update on GIS. He stated there is automatic CAMA updated available to all CRCOG municipalities. He provided information on this update and encouraged towns that are not participating to do so. He spoke about search issues with GIS, stating CIA has made some adjustments to this and stated it would be beneficial to search by partial street name versus suffix.

- Assessment research status

Ms. Yoder stated the potential for regional assessment is being researched per the request of OMP Secretary McCaw. CRCOG has sent surveys to town assessors to gather information to help better understand assessment practices in the region. Thus far,

CRCOG has received responses from 19 towns and will follow up with remaining municipalities.

- PSAPS

Ms. explained this is a priority of OPM and CRCOG will be sending a survey to Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, First Selectmen/Mayors, Town Managers, etc. to collect their input on regional PSAP's. This feedback will be compiled into an executive summary for OPM once complete.

- DEI, Solid Waste RFPs Status

Ms. Bona stated the DEI RFP was issued today and will close on November 22nd. If there are any municipalities that would like to serve on the evaluation committee, please let Kim know.

Ms. Nichols stated that with the uncertainty of MIRA's future operation status, CRCOG will be putting out an RFP for a consultant to explore long term solid waste disposal options.

- Executive Director Search Process / Timeline

Ms. Yoder stated the search for CRCOG's Executive Director has been extended. There were qualified candidates, but the search committee felt it would be beneficial to extend the search.

Pauline stated there is a cannabis zoning change requirement per OPM. If any municipalities make changes to their regulations, it must be reported to OPM.

5. Municipal Information Sharing

- Reminder of the Brownfield Assessment Grant Opportunity

Ms. Yoder stated that CRCOG's Brownfield Assessment grant applications are due October 27th and DECD Brownfield's applications are due October 22nd.

Ms. Bona stated the Salary Survey is due November 8th. If your municipality has not completed this yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Ms. Bona reminded towns that the CRPC is collecting quantities for the gasoline bid. They are due on November 8th. This is a NO PIGGYBACK bid, so please submit quantities if you wish to participate.

Discussion regarding municipal cannabis regulations ensued. Several towns have implemented or revised regulations and/or ordinances to prohibit use of any type of cannabis in public parks. Some have expanded these to prohibit cigarette smoking as well.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Peter Souza motioned to adjourn at 1:05 pm and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Municipal Services Committee will be Tuesday, December 7, 2021.