

Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
9:00 AM, December 6, 2023
This meeting was virtual

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Chris Edge
Lisa Thomas
Jason Bowsza
Toni Moran
Ryan Aylesworth
David Porter
Brock Weber
Fred Presley

Town/Organization

Berlin
Coventry
East Windsor
Mansfield
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Wethersfield

Staff

Matt Hart
Rob Aloise
Cheryl Assis

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Guests

Kathie Lutz

Rome Smith Lutz & Kowalski

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jason Bowsza (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:07am

2. Approval of November 21, 2023 Meeting Minute

Lisa Thomas made a motion to approve the November 21, 2023 minutes. Toni Moran seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Development of FY2024 CRCOG Legislative Agenda

Matt Hart presented a summary of the priority items that the committee had endorsed at its previous meeting for inclusion in the agenda. The list of priority items includes the following:

- Provide funding for stormwater infrastructure.
- Remove remaining statutory barriers to service sharing.
- Create infrastructure bank to assist municipalities with financing the match or nonfederal share required by various federal funding opportunities.

- State to fund payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for state-owned property at statutorily required levels.
- Allow municipalities to create regional fair rent commissions at local option.
- Index state Medicaid ambulance reimbursement rate at Federal level and pay full rate for group home transport.
- Continue funding for CFSIC – State Bond Commission to authorize remaining balance for crumbling foundations.
- Support proposals to establish apprenticeship/internship program for building code officials.
- State to increase reciprocity to accept certifications from other states for various professional and technical positions in municipal government.
- Continue to support CCSMM and CT DEEP in efforts to develop innovative ideas and programs to promote food waste diversion, and streamlined permitting of anaerobic digesters and related infrastructure.
- Provide additional funding to test and remediate contaminated private wells for PFAS and other harmful substances.

By consensus, the Committee decided to add the following items to the draft agenda:

- Support for apprenticeships for childcare workers.
- Enhance municipal role in the permitting of large solar installations.
- Increase funding for special education.
- Increase the sealed requirement (\$25,000) codified under CGS Sec. 7-148v, Requirements for competitive bidding.

The Committee also flagged the following items for further review:

- Status of CGS, Sec. 12-81n - Municipal option to provide additional exemption for businesses offering childcare services to residents.
- Status of regulations/rules requiring background checks for childcare workers and in home childcare operators, and any potential revisions to those regulations/rules.
- Funding for maintenance of multiuse trails and linear parks.

Rob Aloise provided a status report on CTDOT's work to provide guidance on the use of red light/speed cameras. The DOT still plans to use this guidance by January 1, 2024. Mr. Aloise will share CTDOT's legislative proposals once received.

Cheryl Assis reported on the legislative priorities being considered by the Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association (CRCOPA). One critical item would be an amendment to the CT Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to increase the amount that municipalities could charge to process FOIA requests for data captured by body and dash cameras, to more fairly reflect the expense involved in processing the request. Ms. Assis will check to see if CCM or COST have included this item in their respective legislative programs.

4. Next Meeting

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held at 1PM on December 21, 2023.

5. Adjournment

Jason Bowsza adjourned the meeting at 10:15 AM.