

CRCOG Municipal Services Committee
HYBRID Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2024
12 pm
Minutes

Members and Alternates

Peter Souza, Chair
Jon Colman
Al Schwapp
Bob Skinner
Tom Fitzgerald
Lori Spielman
Jonathan Luiz
Kasia Purciello
Maria Capriola
David Porter
Andy Cirioli
Megan Massa
Fred Presley

Town/Organization

Windsor
Bloomfield
Bloomfield
Canton
Ellington
Ellington
Glastonbury
Manchester
Mansfield
Marlborough
Plainville
Tolland
Wethersfield

CRCOG Staff

Rob Aloise
Cheryl Assis
Kim Bona
Matt Hart
Roger Krahn
Aaliyah Miller
Robyn Nichols
Elizabeth Sanderson
Erik Snowden
Pauline Yoder

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Guests

Justin Kearney
Chris Ramm
Kyle Ramm
Sinead Ross

Titan Energy New England
Titan Energy New England
Titan Energy New England
Titan Energy New England

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chairperson Mr. Peter Souza called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- **April 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Jon Colman made a MOTION to accept the minutes from the April 16, 2024, meeting. Ms. Lori Spielman SECONDED the MOTION and it CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this time, Chairperson Souza addressed agenda item 4., entitled, *Business Items*.

4. Business Items

- **Titan Energy New England: Electricity Procurement Overview** (*Chris Ramm, VP and General Manager, Titan Energy*)

Mr. Hart welcomed Mr. Chris Ramm to the meeting and introduced him to the committee. Mr. Ramm provided a brief overview of the services provided by Titan Energy and turned things over to Mr. Justin Kearney.

Mr. Kearney presented to the committee discussing electricity procurement and the upcoming reverse auction that will be taking place this fall for CRPC electricity consortium members.

Ms. Bona stated the reverse auction for a new electricity supplier will be held this fall. Anyone interested in participating in the Electricity Consortium should contact kbona@crcog.org as soon as possible. She stated a reminder will be sent to CRPC members in the next week.

- **Discussion re: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD)** – (*Matt Hart*)

Mr. Hart stated that CRCOG has created a webpage on its website dedicated to ATESD that consists of a toolkit and various helpful information on this topic. He explained that the Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) Executive Committee has expressed support for CRCOG/CRPC to move forward with bidding for a consulting firm to help towns compile the study required for DOT and OSTA, as well as bidding for the required equipment when the time comes.

Mr. Roger Krahn discussed state requirements for municipalities that would need to be met to proceed with ATESD in a community, one being a plan to be submitted and approved by DOT with respect to where the safety devices would be installed throughout a municipality.

Mr. Rob Aloise stated a plan must be approved before any equipment can even be considered. He explained a lot of towns, particularly smaller towns, will not have capability to create such a plan therefore, CRCOG feels it would be appropriate to issue an RFQ for an on-call consultant qualified to produce such a plan. Further, many municipalities expressed interest in services for general traffic engineering services as well, therefore he feels it would be most advantageous to put out an RFQ that will establish two on call lists, one specializing in engineering support for ATESD and another for general traffic engineering services.

The consensus of the committee agreed that they would like to see CRCOG move forward with this, but perhaps issue two separate RFQ's for the different engineering services. Once draft RFQ is ready, it will be circulated to CRCOG's Transportation Committee for review. Discussion followed.

5. Municipal Information Sharing

Mr. Souza asked who have budgets that did not pass yet, besides Windsor. Currently, Tolland, Canton, Coventry, Windsor, Avon, Willington have been unsuccessful getting budgets passed yet as well.

Ms. Kasia stated that Manchester is getting ready to launch their close to launching an alternative work week pilot, which would be either consist of a 4-day work week or keeping the town hall open late one night and closing half day Friday. She explained she plans to survey the public on what they feel would be most convenient and asked for input and wondered if anyone had a survey they have conducted in the past pertaining to the same matter. Members suggested reaching out to Plainville, Mansfield, and Simsbury. Ms. Lori Spielman and Ms. Maria Capriola stated they have been operating on 4-day work weeks for some time now, and it has been very successful all around.

Mr. Souza suggested discussing this further at one of the upcoming MSC meetings this fall. Discussion followed.

At this time, Mr. Souza addressed agenda item 3., entitled, *Reports from the Chair and Staff*.

3. Reports from the Chair and Staff

- **Committee Chair**
- **Executive Director**

Mr. Hart shared that bill 5056 was scaled back a bit, but ultimately adopted under the bond bill. It is designed to eliminate local charter and/or ordinance provisions that would preclude shared services. Furthermore, it would allow CRCOG to reconsider the idea of a Regional Fair Rent Commission as well as other commissions.

Mr. Hart stated that CRCOG submitted a grant application under the state's Climate Resilience Fund for \$250,000 to conduct a regional stormwater study. He explained that recently, CRCOG was informed by DEEP that it has been awarded the grant, and we are now in the process of finalizing the scope of its services. This project is being managed by CRCOG staff member Heidi Samokar.

Mr. Hart closed his report by announcing CRCOG's 50th Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5th at Bldg4 in Manchester, from 2 pm-5 pm.

- **Chief Operating Officer**
- **Other**

Ms. Aaliyah Miller stated Mr. Hart composed a legislative overview for members that was included in CRCOG's latest newsletter that highlights CRCOG's priorities and encouraged folks to read it if they have not yet.

Ms. Kim Bona stated that the CRPC will issue the Treated Road Salt bid on June 6th. This is a NO PIGGYBACKING bid! If you have not submitted quantities yet, please do so as soon as possible to kbona@crcog.org .

Ms. Bona stated the Snowplow Blade bid will be issued on June 26th. The CRPC will be collecting quantities within the next week.

Ms. Yoder stated CRCOG received \$1 mm from EPA in Brownfield's Supplemental Funds and CRCOG has issued a micromobility RFP that closed yesterday. Anyone interested in pursuing scooters in their community, please contact Mike Cipriano for more information mcipriano@crcog.org .

Ms. Elizabeth Sanderson provided an update on BIL. She stated there is one more round in the SS4A which is due August 29th.

6. Future Agenda Items

- **Stormwater Management and/or Waste Management**
- **Legislative Issues**
- **Other?**

Chairperson Souza stated he would like MSC to conduct an in-person meeting this September or October as it is important to network and connect in person a couple times a year.

7. Adjournment

With no further business, Chairperson Souza entertained a motion to adjourn at 1:13 pm.

The next CRCOG Municipal Services meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024.