



NOTICE OF MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2022
TIME: 10:00 AM – 11:50AM
LOCATION: **NHCOG OFFICE** – 59 Torrington Road, Suite A-1, Goshen CT
Optional Remote Participation Link (Zoom):
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86129295268?pwd=cm5WN2Vub2FQRElVZnVZMWtibzFBZz09>
Or Call-In: 1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 861 2929 5268
Passcode: 265465

AGENDA

(Chairman Don Stein; Vice Chairman Henry Todd; Secretary Charlie Perotti; Treasurer Mike Criss)

- 10:00 AM Determination of Quorum, Call to Order, and Opportunity for Public Comment. **Don Stein, Chairman.**
- 10:05 AM Report of the Executive Director, **Rob Phillips, NHCOCG**
- Introduction of new NHCOCG Staff: Emily Hultquist, Assistant Director and Kathryn Faraci, Senior Regional Planner (*Attachment A*)
- 10:10 AM 2022 Legislative Short Session Recap, **Betsy Gara – Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) and Mike Muszinsky, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM)** (*Attachment B*)
- Additional remarks by **Mike Criss, Legislative Committee Chair**
- 10:40 AM **Municipal Forum:** Information Sharing Round Table
- 11:10AM DEMHS Update, **John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator**
- 11:20AM Funding Format to Support Adolescent and Children's Mental Health in the Region, **Brian Mattiello, Hartford Healthcare - Charlotte Hungerford Hospital** (*Attachment C*)
- 11:40AM Committee Activity:
- a) **ACTION** - Recommendation of Nominating Committee for NHCOCG Officers and Executive Committee for FY 2022-2023 (*to be provided*). **Jean Speck, Chairman, Nominating Committee**
- 11:45AM Administrative Items:
- a) **ACTION** - Approval of Special Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2022 (*Attachment D*)
- b) **ACTION** - Approval of Financial Statement for March (*to be provided*)
- c) **ACTION** – The NHCOCG hereby authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Ridgefield and DEMHS regarding the testing, acquisition, custodial assignment, deployment and use of a Vertical Lift Antenna System (VLAS), to be purchased with Homeland Security Grant funds. (*Attachment E*)
- 11:50AM Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment.

****OPTIONAL LUNCH FOR MEMBERS TO FOLLOW****

ATTACHMENT A



Emily Hultquist, AICP
Assistant Director

Emily Hultquist most recently held the position of Director of Policy and Planning/Community Development at the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) in Hartford, CT. She has nearly 17 years of professional experience in land use, transportation planning, community and economic development and urban design in Connecticut. At CRCOG she worked for 13 years in both the Transportation and Policy and Planning Departments. One of her most notable accomplishments was leading the Sustainable Capitol Region initiative which helped lay the groundwork for the agency's being awarded a \$4.2 million Regional Sustainable Communities grant, a highly competitive federal grant program. Previously, Ms. Hultquist held a position as Associate Planner in the Connecticut office of the Regional Plan Association, the nation's oldest and most distinguished urban planning policy and advocacy group. Ms. Hultquist is a Past President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, and she currently sits on the boards of the Hartford Community Loan Fund and the Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford. She was named to the 2018 Class of the Hartford Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Working Professionals in the Hartford Region. Ms. Hultquist holds an A.B. in Growth and Structure of Cities from Bryn Mawr College and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.



Kathryn Faraci
Senior Regional Planner

Kathryn Faraci most recently held the position of Supervisor of the Connecticut Department of Transportation Council of Governments (COG) Coordination Unit. Her duties included assisting the COGs in the development of various transportation plans, corridor studies, and related project management services, including federal and state transportation projects and related grant funding. She was the former Chairman of the Statewide Corridor Study Program. During her 35 year career, she was the former Deputy Director of the CT Highway Safety Office that supported various federal National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Section 402 State and Community Highway Safety Grant Programs which provided funding to states to improve driver behavior and reduce deaths and injuries from motor vehicle related crashes. Grant recipients included various stakeholders and municipal and State Police. She developed statewide countermeasures utilizing program data collection. Ms. Faraci is a graduate of Babson College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Communications.

Emily can be reached via email at ehultquist@northwesthillscog.org or by phone at 860-491-9884

Kathryn can be reached via email at kfaraci@northwesthillscog.org or by phone at 860-491-9884

Please join us in welcoming Emily and Kathryn to the NHCOCG region!



ATTACHMENT B

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

Item II. 3.

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5001 Neutral	Children's Mental Health	Michael Muszynski	PASS	<p>Would make several adjustments to increase mental health services for children. In particular, for towns and cities, the proposal contains several provisions associated with additional requirements for schools. In particular, establishes a grant program for local and regional BOE to hire additional school mental health specialists, and creates another grant program for school boards and operators of youth camps to help cover mental health services for students.</p> <p>**SB 1 and SB 2 are complimentary bills related to youth mental health.</p>
HB 5037 Support	An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2023.	Randy Collins	FAIL	<p>Among other things would increase the existing property tax credit from \$200 to \$300 and expand eligibility to include all filers who meet the following income thresholds 1) single filers with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$107,000 and joint filers with an AGI of \$130,000. The proposed changes would increase the state budget by \$120 million.</p>
HB 5038 Support	Governor's Education Proposals	Michael Muszynski	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in budget implementer</i>	<p>Would, among other things, (1) reauthorize the Alliance District program for another five years and create the new district categorization of "Graduated Alliance Districts" for districts that are being phased out of the program; and (2) adjust the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula.</p> <p>CCM expressed concerns with an unintended consequence as drafted, in particular how some towns - specifically Enfield, Stratford and Plainfield - would get an increase in ECS funding, they would see a decrease in that funding on the town side. That's because any ECS amount over what a town received in FY 12 would go directly to their board of education. As a result, this would create a significant hole in their budget.</p> <p>**Provisions were incorporated in budget implementer - HB 5506, in particular remediated the unintended consequence referenced above.</p>

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5043 Support	Motor Vehicle Assessments	Randy Collins; Donna Hamzy	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in budget implementer</i>	Now - HB 5506, Sections 516-528 - Budget Implementer. Would seek to exempt certain vehicles from taxation and replace Connecticut's current assessment process with an assessment based on a vehicles depreciation schedule which follows the vehicles MSRP and age.
HB 5044 Support	Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee	Michael Muszynski	PASS	Would (a) create an advisory committee responsible to address the opioid crisis, and (b) develop a mechanism to allocate a majority of the opioid settlement proceeds. Specifically, the proposal would create a 32 member advisory board, with 16 members representing municipalities, including a Co-Chair. They would be responsible for creating proposals to address opioid prevention, treatment and recovery strategies, in addition to having the authority to allocate (with some oversight) the funding to implement their plans.
HB 5045 Neutral	Lead Poisoning		PASS	Would, among other things, gradually reduce the lead in blood level threshold that would require parental notification and require local health departments initiate a comprehensive epidemiological investigation to determine the source of elevated blood levels. The current level that would require parental notification is 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) and epidemiological inspection at 20 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). This bill would gradually lower these levels over the next three years to 3.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) and 5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$), respectfully. The legislature will be appropriating approximately \$30 million in ARPA funds to assist municipalities in financing the additional requirements.
HB 5110 Neutral	Group Homes and PILOT Payments	Randy Collins; Brian O'Connor; Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would place the nonprofit group homes under the states calculation of grants in lieu of taxes payments to municipalities.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5116 Support	Utility Tree-Planting Fund	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would require utility companies to create and administer a fund that distributes money to municipalities for tree-planting projects.
HB 5118 Support	Sustainable Materials Management Grant	Donna Hamzy	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in budget implementer</i>	Now - Budget HB 5506 - Sections 164-168. Would make permanent the Sustainable Materials Management Grant program by redirecting alternative compliance payments from Class II Renewable Energy suppliers into the fund. Budget removed reference in Section 162 to require that waste reduction strategies from the CT Commission on Sustainable Materials Management be incorporated into DEEP's solid waste reduction program.
HB 5139 Support	Extended Producer Responsibility for Tires	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would require the establishment of a tire stewardship program for the management of certain discarded tires that must minimize public sector involvement.
HB 5142 Support	Extended Producer Responsibility for Gas Cylinders	Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would, among other things, establish an extended producer responsibility program for the disposal and reuse of gas cylinders in the state.
HB 5165 Monitoring	State Plan of Conservation and Development	Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would (1) amend the process timeline for the revision and adoption of the state plan of conservation and development, and (2) extend to 2025 the application of the plan intended to cover 2018 to 2023, inclusive.
HB 5166 Support	Municipal Agreements to Fix Assessments	Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would, in municipalities where the legislative body is a town meeting, authorize the board of selectmen, if they have been authorized by ordinance, to enter into certain agreements to fix assessments on real property or air space.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5167 Support	Property Revaluation Delays	Donna Hamzy	PASS	<p>Would allow ten municipalities to delay an October 1, 2022 or October 1, 2023 revaluation by one year. This shifts into the future any costs associated with revaluation and any subsequent grand list changes.</p> <p>The ten municipalities permitted to delay revaluation are: Barkhamsted, Danbury, Norfolk, Norwalk, Orange, Stamford, Suffield, Willington, Wilton and Windsor Locks.</p>
HB 5168 Oppose	Taxation of Group Homes	Donna Hamzy	PASS	<p>Would, among other things, expand the types of group homes owned by charitable organizations that are exempt from property taxes. This results in a grand list reduction in municipalities where these properties are located.</p>
HB 5169 Neutral	Recommendations of OPM	Donna Hamzy	PASS	<p>Would (1) expand a local option property tax exemption, (2) expand local authority to maintain neglected cemeteries and burial grounds, and (3) require the Office of Policy and Management to establish a standard revaluation schedule for towns in each of the nine regional Councils of Government.</p>
HB 5171 Support	Abandoned and Blighted Property Receivership	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	<p>Current law provides a judicial process to appoint a receiver to rehabilitate and dispose of abandoned residential, commercial, or industrial properties in municipalities with populations of at least 35,000.</p> <p>This bill would remove the population limitation, making the process available in any municipality.</p>
HB 5172 Support	MERS and Reemployment	Randy Collins; Zach McKeown; Donna Hamzy	PASS	<p>Would, among other things, remove restrictions on the amount of time that a retiree of the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) may be re-employed with a CMERS town and continue to receive his or her pension payments.</p>
HB 5204 Oppose	Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans Regarding Affordable Housing	Zach McKeown; Donna Hamzy	FAIL	<p>Would among other things, require an assessment of the statewide need for affordable housing and an allocation of such need, the creation of an affordable housing plan in each municipality and a process for determining a municipality's performance in meeting the requirements.</p>

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5205 Monitoring	Mandating Fair Rent Commissions	Zach McKeown	PASS	Would require all municipalities with a population of over 25,000 to establish fair rent commissions.
HB 5209 Oppose	Housing Authority Jurisdiction	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would allow housing authorities to expand its jurisdiction to include other municipalities.
HB 5241 Support	Grant Funding to School Districts that Utilize Therapeutic Day Schools for Special Education	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Establishes a grant program that awards grants to school districts that utilize therapeutic day schools in the provision of special education.
HB 5244 Support	Opioid Antagonist in Schools	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would provide grants to school districts for the acquisition of opioid antagonists if they include training in screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment to educators as part of the school district's in-service training program, and authorizes the administration of opioid antagonists in schools in emergency situations.
HB 5247 Monitoring	Volunteer Fire Departments and Ambulance Companies Definition of Employer	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would place volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance companies under CONN-OSHA jurisdiction.
HB 5251 Oppose	Portal to Portal Workers' Compensation Coverage for Dispatchers	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would provide dispatchers with portal-to-portal workers' compensation coverage.
HB 5254 Oppose	An Act Concerning A Study Of Public Access To Certain Beaches And Parks.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would have prohibited municipalities that receive Town Aid Road from restricting access to parking near public beaches and recreational areas or establishing differential parking rates for residents and non-residents. Now would require DEEP and OPM to conduct a study on the use of differential fees.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5262 Neutral	An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes.	Randy Collins	PASS	Would revise eligibility for absentee ballots and expand two of the six statutory reasons for which qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot in an election, primary, or referendum and will allow qualified voters may vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place because of (1) sickness, rather than because of their own illness, or (2) physical disability, rather than because of their own physical disability. Additionally, the bill authorizes qualified voters to vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear at their polling place because of absence from the town of their voting residence.
HB 5269 Support	Remote Meetings	Brian O'Connor; Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would remove the sunset date and permit public agencies to continue to conduct remote meetings under the Freedom of Information Act. Remote and hybrid meetings would continue to be permissive.
HB 5271 Support	Outdoor Dining	Brian O'Connor; Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would extend the application of certain temporary provisions concerning the permitting of outdoor food and beverage services and outdoor displays of goods until April 30, 2023, and delay the application of certain permanent provisions concerning the permitting of outdoor food and beverage services until May 1, 2023. Clarifies that building officials and ZEOs have the authority to enforce ADA requirements under the State Building Code.
HB 5283 Neutral	Modifying ECS Grant Formula	Michael Muszynski	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in budget implementer</i>	Would fully fund the ECS grant for towns that are underfunded by instead of phasing in increases through 2027, the phase-in would be though 2024. At that point, those towns would be fully funded. As drafted, it would not accelerate the phasing in for those that will see a reduction. In addition, would make several modifications to address equitable education funding. **Provisions were incorporated in budget implementer - HB 5506
HB 5298 Support	Future of MIRA Working Group	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would establish a task force to address the transition of operations of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority. The bill was combined with SB 277 which was enacted to establish such working group.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5351 Neutral	Police Accountability	Michael Muszynski	FAIL	<p>Would, among other things; (1) make modifications to police department accreditation requirements; (2) provide clarity regarding which police vehicles are required to be equipped with dash cameras; (3) address certifying a police officer who was dismissed for malfeasance or resigned or retired while under investigation; and (4) make modifications regarding liability and excessive force provisions.</p> <p>CCM supports the provisions that would (a) allow police departments to be certified under the Police Officer and Standards Training (POST) Council standards rather than through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) certified, and (b) prohibit the POST Council from certifying a police officer who was dismissed for malfeasance or resigned or retired while under investigation.</p> <p>CCM has concerns with the provisions that address government immunity for particular officer actions as they do not consider circumstance where an officer is able to obtain immunity for acting reasonably based on particular situation and established case law (which is the process that helps direct policies, procedures and training).</p> <p>**Other provisions incorporated in other legislation that passed.</p>
HB 5354 Support	Undue Delays in Workers' Compensation	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would extend time for employers to file a notice to contest a workers' compensation claim from twenty-eight days, to forty-five days.
HB 5358 Support	Siting of Motor Vehicle Dealerships	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would specify that applicants for licenses for dealing in or repairing motor vehicles shall obtain certificates of approval of location and use from the zoning enforcement official of the municipality.
HB 5359 Support	Study of the Online Posting of Legal Notices	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would require the Office of Policy and Management to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of permitting the online advertisement of legal notices by municipalities.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5417 Monitoring	Juvenile Justice	Michael Muszynski	PASS	Would, among other things, (a) require arraignment and services for juvenile offenders within five days of arrest, (b) allow for electronic monitoring in certain circumstances for juvenile offenders, in particular after their 2nd motor vehicle crime; (c) expands provisions imposing upon a child special juvenile probation in the case of murder or first degree manslaughter, (d) expansion of programs serving juveniles and reducing crime, and (e) allows the police chief or first selectman to be notified of a firearms permit applicant who resides in their municipality and fails a background check.
HB 5420 Neutral	Mental Health Support for Police Officers	Michael Muszynski	PASS	Would among other things, (1) prohibit discipline of a police officer solely for receiving services as a result of a behavioral health assessment; (2) require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to develop training curriculum for police officer interactions with persons who have mental or physical disabilities, and persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind; (3) appropriate money for crisis intervention training for police officers; (4) establish a task force to study the mental health needs of law enforcement officers; (5) require a study to determine the percentage of 9-1-1 dispatch calls that would be more appropriately directed to the 2-1-1 Infoline; (6) require a report on the use of online or remote technology by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council for police officer training after initial certification; and (7) require a report on the Community and Law Enforcement for Addiction Recovery project.
HB 5421 Support	An Act Concerning A Small Harbor Improvement Projects Account To Fund Dredging Projects.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would require the CT Port Authority to establish a small harbor improvement projects account and to spend any funds that may be deposited into such account on small harbor improvement projects.
HB 5436 Oppose	An Act Concerning Legislative Oversight And Approval For The Expenditure Of Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would require legislative oversight and approval for the expenditure of opioid litigation settlement funds. This would run contrary to the settlement agreement, which requires the state to convene an advisory committee that is equally comprised of state and municipal officials to develop recommendations for the allocation of these funds. If enacted it may impose barriers towards appropriately allocating these funds in accordance with the settlement and therefore possibly inhibit funding from being received.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5474 Oppose	An Act Establishing A Property Tax Exemption For Property Located On Certain Indian Lands.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would exempt real and personal property owned by third party vendors on tribal lands from local property tax. Would result in significant revenue loss to the towns of Montville and Ledyard.
HB 5476 Neutral	An Act Concerning The Provision Of Partial Fee Reductions By Municipal Stormwater Authorities And The Inclusion Of Heating, Ventilating And Air Conditioning Systems In School Building Project Grant Payments.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would establish partial fee reductions for properties with certain stormwater management systems, and (2) include heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems in the projects eligible for school building project grants.
HB 5478 Oppose	An Act Concerning A Property Tax Exemption For Certain Veterans And The Provision Of Written Notice To Municipalities And Veterans' Organizations Of Certain Optional Municipal Property Tax Exemptions.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would mandate that 10% of the assessed value of the primary residence of a qualified veteran with an AGI of \$50,100 or less be exempted from the property tax. Additionally, would allow municipalities with an ENGL of \$150,000 or less to apply for reimbursement from OPM.
HB 5479 Neutral	Air Quality in Schools	Michael Muszynski	FAIL	Would impose additional mandates on towns and cities by requiring school boards to maintain particular indoor air temperatures and quality standards along with routine testing and notification requirements. * Some provisions were incorporated in budget implementer

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
HB 5487 Support	An Act Concerning The Property Tax Credit Against The Personal Income Tax.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would expand the eligibility for the property tax credit that can be claimed against the state income tax.
HB 5496 Support	An Act Concerning The Capital Region Development Authority, Private Investment In Certain Projects And The Financial Interests Of Members Of The Board.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would help to expand economic development opportunities in the capital region by leveraging limited public dollars with private co-investment.
HB 5504 Support	An Act Concerning The Removal Of An Enterprise Zone Designation.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would prohibit the removal of the designation of an enterprise zone if the number of residents in such designated area with income below the poverty level has not been reduced by at least seventy-five per cent from the original date of approval of such zone.
HB 5506 Support	An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2023, Concerning Provisions Related To Revenue, School Construction And Other Items To Implement The State Budget And Authorizing And Adjusting Bonds Of The State.	Randy Collins	PASS	<p>The bill as adopted adjusts the biennium state budget and appropriated \$24.2 billion which represents and 6.5% spending increase and largely maintains municipal aid, grant and bonding at levels adopted in the FY22 and FY23 biennium budget with slight increases in Tiered Pilot reimbursement (\$3m) and Adult Education (\$1m).</p> <p>The bill also contained more than \$600 million in tax relief and will reallocate federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and allocates the portion of ARPA funding unallocated by the FY 22 and FY 23 budget. This will result in a total of \$1.75 billion in new ARPA allocations and when combined with previous allocations represents the full ARPA award to Connecticut via the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Capital Relief Fund.</p>
SB 1 Neutral	Childhood Mental and Physical Health Improvements	Michael Muszynski	PASS	<p>Would expand mental and physical health access in schools by increasing funding for school-based health clinics and after school programs and increasing funding for school social workers.</p> <p>Cont.</p>

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
				<p>In particular, appropriates \$10 million for grants to expand services at school-based health centers. As well, establishes a grant program to help boards of education hire and retain social workers, nurses, psychologists and counselors in schools. In addition, requires SDE to explore improving and streamlining the process for teacher certification to address teacher shortage and retention.</p> <p>The bill also implements measures to allow schools to be equipped with Narcan and provisions to ensure employees are properly trained.</p> <p>**SB 2 and HB 500I are complimentary bills related to youth mental health.</p>
SB 2 Monitoring	Preschool and Mental and Behavioral Services for Children	Zach McKeown	PASS	<p>Would make several adjustments to address pandemic impact on childhood depression, anxiety and developmental delays through the expansion of support services. In particular, expands mobile crisis service availability in towns and cities. In addition, provides funding to address mental health issues associated with housing, poverty, racial discrimination, unemployment and adverse early life experiences.</p> <p>**SB 1 and HB 500I are complementary bills regarding youth mental health.</p>
SB 4 Support	An Act Concerning The Connecticut Clean Air Act.	Randy Collins	PASS	<p>Would enact numerous changes to expand electric vehicle infrastructure to promote improved air quality. Among other things the bill includes:</p> <p>Requirements for placement of EV charging stations in at least 20% of designated light and medium duty parking spaces for new school building projects.</p> <p>Would add Level II EV stations and refueling equipment for fuel cell vehicle that are located on commercial or industrial properties, residential properties, and refueling equipment for fuel cell electric vehicles to mandated tax exemption list under 12-81 and would exempt zero emission buses from the property tax.</p>

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
				<p>Would require DOT to establish and administer a matching grant to assist towns and cities to modernize traffic signals to reduce congestion and emissions and provide preference for multi-town or regional projects and would authorize \$75k in bonding to offset costs.</p> <p>Would require designated Environmental Justice Communities to use Zero Emission and low school buses by 2030 and require the remainder of the state to follow suit by 2035, with a goal of 100% zero emission buses by 2040.</p>
SB 9	Budget Implementer	Randy Collins	PASS	Makes numerous changes to the budget adjustments adopted in HB 5506.
Support				
SB 10	Climate Change	Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would require the state to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from electricity supplied to electric customers, by January 1, 2040. Additionally, the bill requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity supplied to electric customers in the state to zero percent by January 1, 2040.
Support				
SB 11	An Act Making Adjustments To State Revenue And Concerning Captive Insurance Companies.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Among other things would expand the property tax credit from \$200 to \$300 and increase eligibility to single and joint filers without dependents that meet adjusted gross income thresholds.
Support				

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 12 Support	An Act Authorizing And Adjusting Bonds Of The State For Capital Improvements And Other Purposes And Concerning The Connecticut Baby Bond Trust Program And Grants For Certain Law Enforcement Equipment And Homelessness Prevention And Response.	Randy Collins	FAIL	<p>Among other things would authorize up to \$75 million in bonding which would be used for the state match for eligible projects under the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Ensuring the state has the needed matching funds will enable Connecticut to maximize the potential offered by an estimated \$6 billion in federal funding and allow various needed infrastructure improvement and expansion projects to be undertaken.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill would extend grant funding to offset the costs to purchase police body and dashboard cameras and related data storage costs through the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. The proposed language would provide distressed municipalities with a 50% matching grant and 30% matching grant for non-distressed municipalities.</p>
SB 16 Neutral	Governor's Proposal to Address Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime	Michael Muszynski	FAIL	<p>Would address the increase of juvenile crime by, among other things; (a) requiring arraignment and services for juvenile offenders within five days of arrest; (b) allowing for electronic monitoring in certain circumstances for juvenile offenders, in particular after their 2nd motor vehicle crime; (c) modifies police holding period of youth offenders; (d) provides clarity and greater discretion for judges when dealing with youth offenders; (e) makes changes to "serious" juvenile offenses and special juvenile probation; (f) clarifies that juvenile delinquency proceedings are to be made available to municipal law enforcement; and (g) modifies existing language regarding motor vehicle theft laws, in particular removes provisions regarding the value of the stolen car being the determining level of larceny.</p> <p>**Juvenile justice provisions passed in HB 5417</p>
SB 30 Oppose	Motor Vehicle Taxes and Reimbursement	Randy Collins; Brian O'Connor; Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would reduce the cap for mill rates imposed on motor vehicles to 30 mills and reimburse municipalities, for fiscal years commencing July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2026, for lost revenue.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 106 Oppose	Legislative Oversight of Federal Infrastructure Funds	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would create an Infrastructure Strategy Board to determine the appropriate infrastructure related projects and related federal grants that should be invested in. While oversight is important, this additional layer of authority may create bureaucratic obstacles and prevent the timeliness of executing infrastructure related projects.
SB 115 Support	Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would establish an extended producer responsibility program for the disposal and reuse of packaging materials in the state.
SB 119 Support	Climate Resiliency Fund	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would, among other things, authorize the state treasurer to (1) invest municipal Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Funds and (2) adopt regulations to do so. It subjects the treasurer's investments to the same oversight and requirements that the law establishes for other treasurer administered trust funds.
SB 127 Oppose	Community Investment Boards	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would (1) require certain municipalities to establish community investment boards to identify priorities for the use of municipal revenue sharing grants, (2) require the Office of Policy and Management to accept proposals for solutions to problems specific to urban areas and establish pilot programs to implement such proposals, and (3) establish a task force to study issues concerning nonprofit providers.
SB 128 Oppose	Unpaid Sewer Liens	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would prohibit foreclosure, assignment and other enforcement actions for unpaid sewer assessment and other fees and charges in the case of owner-occupied real property for which the principal of such unpaid assessments, fees and charges is less than four thousand dollars.
SB 129 Oppose	Tax Exemptions for Certain Conservation Easements	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would authorize municipalities to exempt from real property taxes any portion of land that (1) qualifies as a greenway, (2) is a terrestrial recreational trail that does not exceed one hundred feet in width, (3) is the subject of a conservation easement conveyed by the owner of the land to a municipality, the state or a nonprofit land conservation organization.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 135 Support	Police Department Accreditation	Michael Muszynski	PASS	Would modify the police accountability act to allow police departments to become POST accredited rather than CALEA accredited. The bill would establish three tiers of POST accreditation and provide a timeframe when departments need to achieve each, with tier three being the highest obtainable certification. This would provide needed relief and flexibility for local governments to comply with the police accountability act.
SB 168 Monitoring	Right to Housing	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would establish a right for every resident in the state to obtain adequate housing. The bill would require municipalities to consider the right to housing and the components established under the bill.
SB 171 Support	Revolving Loan Account to Assist Elderly Homeowners	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would establish a revolving loan account to assist certain elderly homeowners who have been delinquent on property tax payments.
SB 176 Support	Shared Clean Energy	Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would (1) modify existing energy caps involving shared clean energy facilities, (2) permit electric distribution companies to own solar power generation facilities within the Shared Clean Energy Facility program, and (3) allow commercial and industrial customers in the non-residential renewable energy tariff program to use their entire roof space for generation.
SB 180 Oppose	Interest Rate on Assigned Municipal Tax Liens	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would reduce, from 18% to 12%, the annual interest rate on unpaid municipal property taxes when a municipal tax collector files a lien on the property and assigns the lien (i.e., sells it to an outside party).
SB 204 Oppose	Government Immunity Defense	Michael Muszynski	PASS	Would modify the definition of negligent acts or omissions which require the exercise of judgment or discretion of a municipal employee, as set forth in CGS §52-557n which govern liability for municipalities. Specifically, if enacted negligent acts involving emergency responses involving discretion would lose their immunity status. The courts have emphasized that municipal officials are immunized from liability for negligence arising out of discretionary acts in part because of the danger that a more expansive exposure to liability would cramp the exercise of official discretion beyond the limits desirable in our society.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 212 Oppose	Permanent Partial Disability Benefits and Pension Offsets	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would prohibit pension offsets regarding permanent partial disability benefits under workers compensation laws and enable an individual to collect full workers compensation benefits and full pension benefits.
SB 218 Support	An Act Concerning Brownfield Remediation.	Randy Collins	PASS	Would allow brownfields that are under short term lease to qualify for the protections afforded under the brownfield remediation and redevelopment programs and the abandoned brownfield clean up program. Additionally it would require DEEP to audit properties within 6 months of completion of remediation work.
SB 222 Oppose	Discontinuing Prescription Medicine	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would require employers or insurers acting on behalf of employers to provide notice and get approval before discontinuing coverage for prescription. If an employer has discontinued or reduced coverage without the approval of the Workers' Compensation Commissioner, the employer is required to pay the employee the total amount of all discontinued payments with interest at a rate of one and one-quarter per cent per month and requires employers to pay for reasonable attorney's fees incurred.
SB 232 Support	Special Education Funding	Michael Muszynski	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in budget implementer</i>	Required SDE to examine the feasibility to adjust the Excess Cost Grant that would; (1) list in descending order towns based on their equalized net grand list, and (2) appropriate funding for the towns excess costs based on where they find themselves in the ranking - anywhere from 80-100%. This proposal is very similar to the tierd PILOT proposal that was enacted in 2021. <i>**Provisions were incorporated in budget implementer - HB 5506. In particular, requires SDE to study adjusting the threshold from 4.5% to lower thresholds based on wealth, and incorporated a tiered structure for Excess Cost reimbursement.</i>
SB 243 Monitoring	Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices	Donna Hamzy	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in budget implementer</i>	Now - Budget HB 5506 - Sections 145-146 Would expand the farmland restoration program's purposes to include climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices in farmland restoration plans. The matching grant program, which the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) administers, encourages farmers to restore farmland that has gone out of production.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 258 Support	Police Dashboard Cameras	Michael Muszynski	PASS	Would, among other things, clarify which police vehicles are required to be equipped with dashboard cameras. The Police Accountability Act of PA 20-1 created ambiguity regarding which police vehicles are required to have dashboard camera. Specifically, the bill would clarify that administrative vehicle in which an occupant is wearing body-worn camera equipment, a bicycle, a motor scooter, an all-terrain vehicle, an electric personal assistive mobility device, or an animal control vehicle, would not need a dashboard camera.
SB 277 Support	Trash to Energy Working Group	Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would establish a working group that will make recommendations on short term and long-term solutions to the problems created by the closing of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority trash-to-energy plant. The bill provides an appointment for both CCM and COST.
SB 278 Support	PEG Programming Support	Donna Hamzy	PASS	Would (1) define “subscriber” and “video streaming,” (2) require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to establish a fee paid by subscribers of video streaming, Internet access and cable television, and (3) limit the applicable fee to one household per purchased service.
SB 291 Oppose	Group and Family Child Care Homes	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would among other things 1) amend section 8-3j of the general statutes to include license group child care homes and require municipalities to certify compliance to the Office of Policy and Management. The bill prohibits municipalities from placing special zoning or operational restrictions on group child care homes.
SB 296 Support	Eliminating the Requirement to Store Personal Property of Evicted Tenants	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would relieve municipalities of the unfunded state mandate to remove and store the personal property belonging to evicted tenants.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 304 Support	Police Accountability Task Force Recommendations	Michael Muszynski	FAIL	Would implement the recommendations of the Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force. While the bill contains several provisions, specifically, CCM supports language found in section 4 which would allow police departments to be certified under the Police Officer and Standards Training (POST) Council standards rather than through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) certified.
SB 313 Monitoring	Cancer Presumption in Workers' Compensation for Firefighters	Zach McKeown	PASS	<p>The underlying bill proposal would have among other things, created a rebuttable presumption for firefighters bringing a worker's compensation claim for cancer, which would significantly change existing workers'; compensation laws thereby imposing crippling costs to municipalities.</p> <p>CCM worked to amend the bill so that it maintained the integrity of the Cancer Relief Fund and rejected the original proposal to create a rebuttable presumption for firefighters bringing a worker's compensation claim for cancer. The new negotiated bill requires the Connecticut Fire Services Organization to develop a plan for maintenance on turnout gear and requires municipalities to contribute to the firefighters cancer relief account in the amount of \$10 per firefighter per year.</p>
SB 319 Support	Deadlines for Arbitration Awards	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would require municipal arbitration cases to conclude within a six-month time frame from the commencement of the proceedings.
SB 321 Monitoring	Expanding PTSI Benefits to All Employees	Zach McKeown	FAIL	Would extend workers' compensation coverage for PTSI to all employees. The bill allows any employee covered by workers compensation law to qualify for the benefits if the same qualifying events occur in the course of the employee's employment. The PTSI benefits provided to them are subject to the same procedures and limitations that currently apply to the PTSI benefits for first responders.
SB 323 Support	Municipal Tree Removal	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	Would establish a municipal tree removal account to provide grants to municipalities for the removal of dead, dying and hazardous trees, tree limbs and tree branches from municipal property and municipal roads.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 325 Monitoring	Installation of Water Lines and Hydrants	Donna Hamzy	FAIL	<p>Would prohibit water companies from charging municipalities a fire protection charge for a water line that: 1. is not connected to a fire hydrant on the same street; 2. does not have a fire hydrant connected to it in the same municipality; or 3. the company does not own and maintain, or a hydrant that the company does not own and maintain.</p> <p>It also prohibits water companies from: 1. charging municipalities a linear foot charge or fire hydrant charge for a water line located on private property or 2. installing a hydrant without first obtaining permission from the chief administrative officer and local fire marshal of the municipality or jurisdiction in which the hydrant will be located.</p> <p>The bill would apply prohibitions regardless of conflicting state statutes. The bill does not define water company or municipality. Generally, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority regulates the rates of investor owned water companies and the Department of Public Health regulates other types of water systems.</p>
SB 379 Support	Streamlines Unclaimed Property Program	Brian O'Connor	FAIL	A Treasurer's proposal that would streamlines process for municipalities and others to receive unclaimed property or assets.
SB 398 Oppose	Legislative Oversight of ARPA	Randy Collins	FAIL	The bill would, among other things, require towns and cities to (1) report funding allocations made through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to OPM, and (2) to submit a request and receive approval prior to expending ARPA funds greater than \$100,000.
SB 423 Monitoring	Indoor Air Quality in Public Schools	Zach McKeown	FAIL	<p>Would require local and regional boards of education to maintain healthy indoor air quality and makes certain school HVAC projects eligible to receive state reimbursement grants.</p> <p><i>* Some provisions incorporated in budget implementer.</i></p>

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 428 Neutral	School Construction	Michael Muszynski	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in budget implementer</i>	Would make several modifications to the school construction grant process. In particular, establishes a reimbursement program for school HVAC system installation, repair, and upgrades, and makes multiple changes to eligible costs under the school construction reimbursement program. As drafted, the bill does not provide a funding source or amount for the discretionary grant program. To the extent that funds are made available for the program, there would be a potential cost to the state and a potential revenue gain and potential cost to grant recipients. **Provisions were incorporated in budget implementer - HB 5506
SB 452 Support	An Act Concerning The Mashantucket Pequot And Mohegan Fund.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would increase the amount of funding distributed to towns and cities under the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan fund from \$51 million to \$146 million.
SB 467 Support	Remote Meetings	Randy Collins; Brian O'Connor	FAIL <i>* Provisions incorporated in HB 5269</i>	Would remove the sunset date for holding remote or hybrid meetings. Remote or hybrid meetings would remain permissive.
SB 473 Oppose	An Act Concerning The State Contracting Standards Board.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would among other things expand the full time staffing of the State Contracting Standards Board and expand the authority of that board to oversee contracting and procurement processes by state quasi-public agencies and municipal governments.

Important Bills Update

PASS / FAIL List

BILL #	Title	Staff	Status	Notes
SB 478 Support	An Act Concerning Property Assessment Appeals And Homeownership Incentive Tracts, Establishing Tax Credit Voucher Programs To Incentivize Commercial Leases And Residential Conversions And Authorizing The Capital Region Development Authority To Solicit Investment Funds.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Among other things would require the filing of an appraisal for certain property assessment appeals and prohibit contingency fee agreements for assessment appeals and authorize CRDA to solicit outside investments.
SB 484 Neutral	An Act Concerning Emissions And Decibel Level Testing For Motor Vehicles And The Taxation Of Certain Motorcycles And Motorcycle Mufflers.	Randy Collins	FAIL	Would require emissions and decibel level testing for motor vehicles and motorcycles and establish a higher rate of sales and use taxes for motorcycles and certain motorcycle mufflers that exceed the maximum allowable decibel level.

ATTACHMENT C

NHCOG SUMMARY REQUEST 5/12/22

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to us many new challenges and has exacerbated other longstanding issues in need of attention even before the pandemic.

As we reset our relative sense of priorities, one area that we must address is our behavioral health system – particularly the needs of children and adolescents - as the challenges have existed and as they are evolving due to the pandemic.

The demand for services is growing, wait lists are growing, and acuity is growing. Every town, every school, and every component part of the continuum of service is up against it.

Good news is that during the last few months, both at the federal and state levels, considerable bipartisan attention is being given to a raft of recommendations for service and system improvements.

But the scale of the crisis demands that more action is needed and fast – especially at the local level where there is no time to waste in implementing empirically grounded strategies.

PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

Locally, many who do this work, rely upon these services, or routinely refer to them gathered recently to assess our needs – over 40 organizations and individuals were involved.

Their work together has resulted in the attached report that highlights several initiatives and strategies to improve access to, and experience with, area children and adolescent behavioral health services.

This report is shared with you standing on the shoulders of all participants and with a collective sense of urgency.

One conclusion of the report is that regardless of what legislation passes or what new funding is put in place at the state and federal levels, a local response plan is essential.

It matters how well we locally organize and coordinate our response to the growing needs, and to see this as the regional challenge that it represents a BH needs transcend town lines.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The report contains a number of recommendations that best require a federal/state response – they have to do with existing contracts, policy and funding streams at both levels of government.

This report has been shared with elected officials at those levels and corresponding legislation that incorporates most of these recommendations are under consideration and we continue our advocacy.

But two of the most important findings and recommendations require a local response and are there because they address a local need that cannot be fully met through federal and state interventions. These include:

ATTACHMENT C

NHCOG SUMMARY REQUEST 5/12/22

- 1) **Rapidly Expand Pro-social/Recreational Opportunities** in the region. This is important to address the isolation our youth have experienced, and to help as many as possible through a range of activities. We are asking for a three-year regional commitment from the COG communities at \$50K per year (**\$150K in total**) to be made to the Building Healthier Communities Fund at the NW Community Foundation for 100% competitive and efficient distribution of the funds to area nonprofits.
- 2) **Establish a Lead Navigator** to expand collaborative efforts and training among providers and to serve as a navigator to families and schools and child-serving professionals. This position exists in other sectors and serves its weight in gold. Too often care is not sought or not timely secured due to awareness and access concerns – particularly in the rural NW – this all-hands approach – even as invested in a single position will make a huge difference. We are asking for a three-year regional commitment from the COG at \$75K per year (**\$225K in total**) which includes salary and benefits. The Building Healthier Communities Fund can also serve as the conduit to make an award for 100% of these funds to a local organization that will host the position.
- 3) **Potential VOLUNTARY Funding Share Framework (per capita by town):**

MUNICIPALITY	POPULATION*	PRO-SOCIAL/REC OPPORTUNITIES	NETWORK LEAD NAVIGATOR	TOTAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OVER 3 YEARS
BARKHAMSTED	3,650	\$1,625	\$2,437	\$4,062	\$12,185.62
BURLINGTON	9,520	\$4,238	\$6,357	\$10,594	\$31,782.77
CANAAN (FV)	1,081	\$481	\$722	\$1,203	\$3,608.95
COLEBROOK	1,360	\$605	\$908	\$1,513	\$4,540.40
CORNWALL	1,566	\$697	\$1,046	\$1,743	\$5,228.13
GOSHEN	3,148	\$1,401	\$2,102	\$3,503	\$10,509.68
HARTLAND	1,900	\$846	\$1,269	\$2,114	\$6,343.20
HARWINTON	5,470	\$2,435	\$3,652	\$6,087	\$18,261.74
KENT	3,014	\$1,342	\$2,012	\$3,354	\$10,062.32
LITCHFIELD	8,165	\$3,635	\$5,452	\$9,086	\$27,259.07
MORRIS	2,250	\$1,002	\$1,502	\$2,504	\$7,511.68
NEW HARTFORD	6,652	\$2,961	\$4,442	\$7,403	\$22,207.88
NORFOLK	1,585	\$706	\$1,058	\$1,764	\$5,291.56
NORTH CANAAN	3,198	\$1,424	\$2,135	\$3,559	\$10,676.61
ROXBURY	2,260	\$1,006	\$1,509	\$2,515	\$7,545.07
SALISBURY	4,191	\$1,866	\$2,798	\$4,664	\$13,991.76
SHARON	2,675	\$1,191	\$1,786	\$2,977	\$8,930.56
TORRINGTON	35,422	\$15,768	\$23,651	\$39,419	\$118,257.29
WARREN	1,348	\$600	\$900	\$1,500	\$4,500.33
WASHINGTON	3,644	\$1,622	\$2,433	\$4,055	\$12,165.59
WINCHESTER	10,226	\$4,552	\$6,828	\$11,380	\$34,139.77
TOTAL	112,325	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$125,000	\$375,000

*Population from 2020 DPH Estimates

ATTACHMENT C

NHCOG SUMMARY REQUEST 5/12/22

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- As you look for the highest and best use of your AARPA funds, particularly those that were provided explicitly for regional responses, this report is your evidence of need and pathway to opportunity.
- We are at a pain point – we are at an inflection point – and we also have a unique opportunity to collectively and meaningfully respond.

Thank you for your careful consideration of addressing this critical need in our region.

MINUTES

NHCOG SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING

April 21, 2022

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein

Canaan, Henry Todd

Cornwall, Gordon Ridgeway (via Zoom)

Harwinton, Michael Criss

Litchfield, Denise Raap

Norfolk, Matthew Riiska

Roxbury, Patrick Roy

Torrington, Elinor Carbone

Colebrook, Christopher Johnstone

Goshen, Todd Carusillo

Kent, Jean Speck

Morris, Thomas Weik

North Canaan, Charles Perotti

Sharon, Brent Colley (via Zoom)

Washington, Jim Brinton (via Zoom)

Others in Attendance:

Catherine Awwad, NRWIB (via Zoom); John Field, DEMHS Region 5 REPT (via Zoom); Brian Mattiello and John Simoncelli, Hartford Healthcare -Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

NHCOG Staff:

Rob Phillips

Call to Order and Opportunity for Public Comment – Chairman Stein called the meeting to order at 10:03AM. Hedy Ayers from Eversource shared that the ERP Annual meetings will be held virtually - Western Region is on April 28th from 10am-12pm, State Meeting on 27th from 6pm-8pm. Eversource is in the process of hiring new Community Relations Specialist. More transitions to come.

Report of the Executive Director – Office I still short staffed. Rob and Sarah still on a learning curve as the typical year progresses and it's been a challenge over the past couple of months being a staff of two. Interviews for new candidates were conducted and the Executive Committee will meet to discuss an offer to a candidate. CAMA Data needs to be submitted to the COG by May 1, 2022. Some towns still need to submit their Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan local approval. Please do so as soon as possible. Update to the COG office expansion: Hoping to start expansion work as soon as possible. The contractor was to submit cost adjustments due to inflation and logistical supply issues. More importantly, the roof needs to be replaced before we can proceed with the expansion.

Municipal Forum – Generally, annual budgets are a concern for most towns at this time of year. Specific reports by town are as follows:

- Barkhamsted – Interested in potential coordination effort with Northwest Connect and interested towns for broadband partnership. Will attempt to schedule a working meeting. Town budget is flat for next FY.
- Morris – Flat budget also.

- Litchfield – Motor vehicle tax is up, Grand List is up. Litchfield HS may become Region 20 school system. Working on ARPA allocations.
- North Canaan – Region 1 budget difficult for town. Town has lowest employee pay in region.
- Canaan/FV – Budget should pass. Second smallest town in state so good surplus. Affordable housing still a popular topic with residents. Trying to obtain a Small Cities Grant.
- Colebrook – Region 7 cost is up. There hasn't been increases in local budget for years so it is growing problem.
- Norfolk – 3.5% increase in budget. A lot of bridge work ongoing in town at once. Affordable Housing still being discussed. Has an ARPA group looking at options. 5MW solar facility in the works.
- Torrington – Received Brownsfield Grants for two key blighted properties. Affordable housing issues continue. Was wondering if anyone else may be impacted by proposed motor vehicle tax cap. BOE budget is a large increase so overall budget passing is a concern. Cannabis legislation still a hot topic in town.
- Kent – Budget was sent back to BOS from BOF for cuts. EMS models need to be reconsidered as they are too costly for Kent. Streetscape project may start in a couple months after many years of planning/delay.
- Goshen – Region 6 enrollment is down. ARPA funds went to lost revenue.
- Roxbury – Nothing of significance to report.
- Harwinton – Going through mill rate cutting process. Burlington got the bigger share of Region 10 so that is good for Harwinton's budget.
- Cornwall – Nothing of significance to report.
- Washington – Enrollment increase made the budget difficult, however the same mill rate is expected. EMS and Fire too big for one building now so looking at options. Bridge work is ongoing.

Updates on Activities of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) - Catherine Awwad from NRWIB shared that they provide services to both employers and job seekers, including trainings, recruitment events, job fairs and individual training. Working on the Career ConneCT project through the state. Also, provide ARPA training for providers. Catherine can be reached at Catherine.awwad@nrwib.org , 203-574-6971 www.NRWIB.org

Discussion on Funding to Benefit Children's Behavioral Health in the Region – Brian Mattiello, Hartford Healthcare – Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, discussed the crisis involving youth mental health in the region and the need to address it. A partnership with supportive funding was requested from each town to provide a support service along with a program lead position to administer the service. Members found some value and will consider further.

DEMHS Update - John Field, DEMHS Region 5 Supervisor reports that we are still working on Coronavirus long term recovery. Working with FEMA on this too for things such as jobs and childcare. Region 5 Cyber Security work group will be reaching out to the municipalities. They have a small amount of money, so they won't be able to get to everyone, first come first serve. New State EMD William Turner from Pennsylvania. Meet and greet set for May 10th in Watertown at

2pm and an evening meeting as well. Working on improving communication. Working on purchasing radios. Coordinators will be meeting with Massachusetts Emergency Management team.

Committee Updates –

- Legislative Committee - Michael Criss reports that he has been watching 78 bills at this time. Will contact Rob at the COG if he sees any big problems that need to be addressed. MIRA discussion on how towns plan on moving forward was discussed.
- Nominating Committee Appointment - Donald Stein appointed the nominating committee of Jim Brinton, Jean Speck (Chair), and Chris Johnstone for the upcoming slate of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee in 2022-2023.

Administrative Items:

a) Amendments to the 2021 STIP: Henry Tood moved to approve the amendments as presented. Jean Speck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Approval of Minutes for March 10, 2022: Mike Criss moved to approve the minutes with the spelling correction to Denise Raap's last name. Charlie Perotti seconded the motion. The motion of the amended minutes was pass unanimously.

c) Approval of Financial Statement for February 2022: Michael Criss moved to approve the March Financial Statement. Jean Speck second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d) PWEC 2022 Rates: Jean Speck moved to approve the 2022 rates as presented. Henry Todd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e) Authorization to Bid - Full Depth Reclamation Bid and Chip Seal Bid: Mike Criss moved to approve the two bid authorizations. Chris Johnstone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made (Weik), seconded (Johnstone), and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah B. Better
NHCOG Financial/Office Manager

ATTACHMENT E

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

The Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

And

The Town of Ridgefield

And

Northwest Hills Council of Governments

2022

PURPOSE

This agreement memorializes the requirements that must be met by the Northwest Hill Council of Government (NHCOG), the Town of Ridgefield (Ridgefield) with the purchase of a Drone Lifted RF Antenna System (VLAS) with funds from the Homeland Security Grant Program which is managed by the Division of Emergency Management of Homeland Security (DEMHS).

The Parties agree to the following: The VLAS will support the VHF and UHF portable repeaters carried on the Region 5 MCV. The VLAS will employ the use of a drone NOT equipped with a camera to carry either a VHF or a UHF antenna to an altitude of 100 feet. The drone will be tethered at all times to a ground power supply and a portable repeater also on the ground. The drone will maintain a constant position and altitude and will not be used in any kind of flight pattern.

REQUIREMENTS

The ongoing requirements have been stated and answered through multiple letters and emails. This document serves as a comprehensive list. All requirements, even if previously completely and met, must continue to be actively met.

- 1. Proof that vendor has built and deployed a system of this nature and proof your acquisition will follow all appropriate procurement rules of your fiduciary, including submission of a RFP**

In an email sent on August 10, 2021, NHGOG and Ridgefield stated that SGNL Communications agreed to build a system within the budget and demonstrate it to the satisfaction of the SIEC and Region 5 REPT before payment to the vendor is made. Since the vendor must demonstrate the system prior to purchase, NHCOG and Ridgefield will verify that the system meets their needs.

NHCOG and Ridgefield reported that they had been unable to find any vendors able to supply this type of system within the budget (\$25,000). All other systems approached or exceeded 6 digits. Under the NHCOG procurement rules, no bid contracts in "sole source" situations are allowed. This project qualifies as sole source due to the fact that there is no commercially available alternate near the price point.

Initials _____

- 2. FEMA requested that Region 5 identify a custodial owner for the system, and that the Chief Executive Officer of the custodial owner acknowledge that role in writing**

Rudy Marconi, First Selectman of Town of Ridgefield and Chairman of the Region 5 REPT verified that the Town of Ridgefield would take custodial ownership for the system. This agreement will be memorialized in a subsequent memorandum which will include the procedures described below.

- 3. Develop and submit, in conjunction with Region 5 REPT, a Standard Operating Procedure for activation, use, and demobilization of the VLAS**

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) must include: 1) who may request deployment; 2) who is authorized to approve deployment; and 3) a process to document the deployment, maintenance, and authorization of VLAS and personnel.

An SOP was submitted to DEMHS and has been revised incorporating DEMHS's comments. Once the VLAS is built, Ridgefield, in conjunction with Region 5 REPT, will update the SOP to include Ridgefield's ownership, new statutory requirements, and any revisions proposed by DEMHS. (Attachment A)

- 4. In conjunction with the Region 5 REPT, Ridgefield will develop and present to the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) for approval, proposed testing criteria for the VLAS to allow for its performance to be evaluated prior to acceptance and payment for the VLAS**

The testing criteria was developed and submitted to the SIEC through DEMHS. Ridgefield, Region 5 REPT, and DEMHS all reserve the right to revise and update the testing criteria up to 3 business days before the finished product demonstration. (Attachment B)

- 5. Show proof of general liability insurance coverage. Coverage will be, at a minimum, equivalent to the limits provided for law enforcement/fire vehicles.**

a) Ridgefield agreed to this requirement but argued it cannot insure the VLAS until it has possession of it.

b) Ridgefield shall provide proof of general liability insurance coverage to DEMHS after it takes custodial ownership of the VLAS but before the VLAS's first flight.

- 6. Pursuant to DEMHS's requirement, Region 5 REPT, acting through its fiduciary, hereby certifies that:**

a) The power of the radio transmitter attached to the drone antenna will not exceed the power output specified in the Rules of the Federal communications commissioner (FCC) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

- b) The personnel assigned to operate the VLAS are trained and certified as specified in the rules of the FAA.
- c) There are sufficiently trained and certified personnel to operate and deploy the system 24 hours a day. For the purpose of this proposal, the standard will be 4.5 full-time equivalents.

7. FEMA is requiring that Ridgefield and Region 5 REPT fiduciaries certify and affirm the following:

"The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) end user attest the vertical lift antennal system will not be used to collect, record, or disseminate any data which would infringe on the civil rights, civil liberties or privacy of any citizen."

No fiduciary has attested to this yet.

8. FEMA is requiring that the Ridgefield and Region 5 REPT fiduciaries review and understand the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), small unmanned Aircraft Systems sUAS Fact Sheet located at <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/uas-fact-sheets>. (Attachments C and D)

On December 12, 2021 DEMHS received an email verification from Dick Aarons, the Ridgefield EMD, that he reviewed the DHS information.

FEMA is requiring that the Ridgefield fiduciary and the Region 5 REPT fiduciary also certify that they read the DHS materials.

9. FEMA is requiring that Ridgefield and Region 5 REPT fiduciaries review and understand the DHS CISA Chinese Manufactured Unmanned Aircraft Systems Industry Alert. (Attachment E)

On December 12, 2021 DEMHS received an email verification from Dick Aarons, the Ridgefield EMD, that he reviewed the DHS information.

FEMA is requiring that the Ridgefield fiduciary and the Region 5 REPT fiduciary also certify that they read the DHS materials.

10. Statutory Recognition and Understanding

Both the fiduciaries of Ridgefield and NHCOC agree that they have read, understood, and will follow 14 CFR Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft System rules and regulations, as well as any Connecticut statutes and regulations that may be enacted when the system is in service.

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF AGREEMENT:

1. TERMINATION: Any party can terminate this agreement by written notice of such intention with thirty days' advance notice to the other parties.
2. STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The statutory authority for DEMHS to enter into this agreement is Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-8 and Titles 28 and 29 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The authority for Ridgefield to enter into this agreement is found in the attached resolution, charter or ordinance provision [Rudy Marconi needs to provide this]. The authority for NWCOG to enter into this agreement is found in _____ . Statutory Cite [Robert Philips needs to provide the statutory cite for this]
3. FUNDING AVAILABILITY: With regard to any funding provided by DEMHS in accordance with this Memorandum of Agreement, all funding is contingent on the availability of funds from the federal Homeland Security Grant Program obligated by DEMHS to support this project and administered by DEMHS, and does not in any way obligate DEMHS to provide any additional or future funding beyond the terms of any such written agreement or obligation.
4. HOLD HARMLESS: The TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD AND NORTHWEST HILL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS agree to indemnify and hold harmless DEMHS, DESPP, and the State of Connecticut with regard to the activities described within this MOA, and recognize that the State does not waive its right to sovereign immunity with regard to any provision of this MOA.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION/
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

BY _____
Brenda M. Bergeron, Deputy Commissioner

DATE

TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD

BY _____

DATE

In accordance with the attached Resolution,
Charter or Ordinance provision.

NORTHWEST HILLS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

BY _____

CHAIR

DATE