



# GBRC

Greater Bridgeport Regional Council  
Bridgeport • Easton • Fairfield • Monroe • Stratford • Trumbull

## Draft Minutes Regular Meeting Greater Bridgeport Regional Council

Wednesday, January 29, 2014  
Greater Bridgeport Regional Council Conference Room  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Bill Finch, Mayor (at 2:30)	Bridgeport
Adam Dunsby, First Selectman	Easton
Mike Tetreau, First Selectman (conference call)	Fairfield
Steve Vavrek, First Selectman	Monroe
John Harkins, Mayor (at 2:30)	Stratford
Timothy Herbst, First Selectman	Trumbull
Brian Bidolli, Executive Director	GBRC
Meghan Sloan, Senior Transportation Planner	GBRC
Colleen Kelleher, Administrative Assistant	GBRC
Kevin Lembo, Comptroller	State of Connecticut
Bill Ruggiero	Durant, Nichols, Houston, Hodgson & Cortese-Costa
Scott Appleby, Director of Emergency Management & Homeland Security	Bridgeport
Lieutenant Ronald Kirby, Trumbull Police	Trumbull
William Chiarenzelli, Deputy Director of Emergency Management	Trumbull

### Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

This was a regular meeting of the GBRC. It was called to order by the Chair, First Selectman Herbst, at 2:10 pm. A quorum was declared.

## II. Public Participation

First Selectman Herbst asked if there was anyone from the public who wanted to address the GBRC. Hearing none, the Council proceeded to the next item.

A motion was made to take the meeting out of order. Action Item V.1 was moved to Item III on the agenda. Item IV was moved to Item III. Item III became Item IV.

## III. Discussion Item

### 1. Presentation by Kevin Lembo, Comptroller, State of Connecticut

Mr. Lembo presented the Connecticut Municipal Healthcare and Pharmacy Partnerships to the Council, as well as the possibly savings that could be achieved. He offered to get pricing for individual municipalities. The timeline for pricing depended on the complexity of the municipality. Pricing could take longer than a week if multiple bargaining units or retirees were involved. Twelve municipalities currently utilize some aspect of the Partnership (healthcare, pharmacy or both). Savings are achieved through bulk purchasing, which could possibly lower municipal property taxes

Mr. Lembo commented that typically he encourages municipalities to join the ACH program, but all GBRC municipalities participate in the program. Mr. Bidolli asked if an automated e-mail could be sent that broke out the individual payments. Mr. Lembo offered to look into this matter.

First Selectman Herbst asked Mr. Lembo how the Council could help him. Mr. Lembo asked the Council to let other municipalities know that the ACH program was beneficial. Mr. Lembo commented that although the state had a surplus, the rainy day fund was very limited.

First Selectman Herbst asked Mr. Lembo about municipal pension systems, and whether over time was calculated into the pension. Mr. Lembo replied that over time was included and continued that changes to the system could be modeled by the Comptroller's office. First Selectman Herbst commented that the Comptroller's Office is responsive to municipalities and that he appreciates this responsiveness. Mr. Lembo and his staff departed.

## IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on December 5, 2013 were reviewed. A motion was made by First Selectman Vavrek and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## V. Executive Session

At 2:24, a motion was made by First Selectman Dunsby and seconded by First Selectman Vavrek to go into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. During this time, Mayor Finch and Mayor Harkins arrived. At 2:35, a motion was made by Mayor Finch and seconded by Mayor Harkins to end the Executive Session.

First Selectman Vavrek made a motion to approve a settlement between the GBRC and B. Orlandski. The motion was seconded by Mayor Finch. The motion passed unanimously.

## VI. Discussion Items

### **2. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)**

Mr. Bidolli explained that \$4.3 million in LOTICIP funding was available for new projects. He provided the Council with details on the parameters of the program and explained that the municipality is responsible for design costs associated with the project. Funds can be carried over from year to year. First Selectman Herbst instructed Mr. Bidolli to reach out to Public Works Directors and Planners for projects.

### **3. Route 25/111 Intersection Improvements**

First Selectman Herbst commented on the need to meet with ConnDOT to address funding, safety and economic development. Mayor Finch suggested a regional Complete Streets policy. Mayor Harkins commented on the availability of funding in 2016. Mr. Bidolli told the Council he would contact the Commissioner to attend a Council meeting. Mr. Bidolli commented that a discussion of MPO boundaries was necessary, as transportation funding is a major concern.

### **4. Trumbull Plan of Conservation and Development**

First Selectman Herbst explained the need for expedited revisions to the Trumbull Plan of Conservation and Development. He provided the Council with a draft letter to the Trumbull Planning and Zoning Commission and Town Council with comments on the Plan. First Selectman Herbst commented that the draft Plan was very good but “support for transit” (as explained in the letter) through the Planned Development District zone was necessary to address commercial expansion without the proper controls. The Council was supportive of the letter and requested that Mr. Bidolli arrange for staff to send the letter to Trumbull’s Planning and Zoning Commission and Town Council.

Mayor Finch asked the Council about their thoughts on the new utility right of way and the impact on their town’s tree canopy. First Selectman Herbst referred the matter to the

Conservation Technical Advisory Committee and requested that staff and the CTAC provide the Council with an analysis of the matter, as well as a clarification of certain questions. First Selectman Tetreau suggested that UI provide each municipality with a detail of the economic impact of tree removal.

At 3:05, First Selectman Tetreau dropped off the conference call. A motion was made by Mayor Finch and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby to appoint First Selectman Vavrek Secretary *pro tem*.

## **5. FY2014 Work Program Status/Financial Report**

Mr. Bidolli provided the Council with an update of the projects that staff have been working on.

**Regional GIS RPIP:** Planimetrics are finished for Monroe and Easton. Parcel datasets are still needed. The GIS application should be complete for Monroe and Easton by March or April. The Trumbull GIS application is up and available.

**DECD Brownfields GIS:** A prototype of the application for Bridgeport is available. CT DEEP is supportive of the project and the GBRC application/process may be utilized as a model for the state project.

**Regional Plan of Conservation and Development:** Consultant interviews are scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Grants:** In partnership with the South Central Connecticut Council of Governments, the GBRC will be submitting an application for Coastal Resiliency Planning, Assessment and Project Design to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Mayor Finch provided the Council with information about the Rebuild by Design project.

Mr. Bidolli explained that financial information was included in the packet.

## **6. Administrative Items**

**U.S. Conference of Mayors:** Mr. Bidolli explained to the Council that a regional membership was available. Over \$20,000 was spent on membership dues by four of the municipalities in the region. A regional membership would cost between \$17,000 and \$18,000 in total. The Council explained some of the benefits of membership in the USCM to First Selectman Dunsby. Per First Selectman Dunsby's request, Mr. Bidolli will prepare a resolution and e-vote that details how the membership fee would be a supplement to the local dues.

**Financial Services:** Mr. Bidolli explained that two firms have been interviewed for outside financial support.

**COG Rebranding:** First Selectman Herbst asked the Council to consider the GBRC name over the next month.

**Region 1 Emergency Planning Team (R1EPT) Bylaws Concern:** Mr. Appleby, Lieutenat Kirby and Mr. Chiarenzelli provided the Council with a hand out that explained their concerns. First Selectman Herbst discussed some of the conclusions arrived at by the Trumbull and Bridgeport legal teams. Mr. Chiarenzelli emphasized to the Council that R1EPT served the local municipalities of the region and that the Chair of R1EPT should be answerable to a local official, rather than a state official.

## VII. Action Items

**1. 2014 Meeting Calendar:** By motion made by First Selectman Vavrek and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby, the amended meeting calendar was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. America the Beautiful Grant:** Mr. Bidolli explained the grant to the Council. By motion made by Mayor Finch and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby, the grant was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Regional Plan of Conservation and Development and 4. Brownfields Assessment Program:** By motion made by Mayor Finch and seconded by First Selectman Vavrek, these items were tabled. The motion passed unanimously.

## VII. Other Business

**1. Nutmeg Network:** By motion made by Mayor Harkins and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby, participation in the Nutmeg Network was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Green Strategies Letter to the Editor:** Mayor Finch explained the purpose of the Letter to the Editor to First Selectman Dunsby.

## VII. Adjourn

Having no further business, First Selectman Vavrek made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Finch. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Steve Vavrek, First Selectman  
GBRC Secretary *pro tem*