

**Disclaimer.** Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
October 5, 2011  
Meeting Room A**

**Present:** Philip J. Miller, First Selectman  
Norman M. Needleman, Selectman

Philip Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and reminded everyone that this is a meeting of the Board of Selectmen, not a meeting of the public.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion** was made by Philip Miller to approve the Agenda with changes to remove Items D. and E due to the fact that we do not have complete information on these two items. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion** was made by Norman Needleman to approve the September 21, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes. Philip Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

Mr. Miller read into the record a letter form CL&P.

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**Connecticut  
Light & Power**

A Northeast Utilities Company

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William J. Quinlan  
Vice President – Customer Solutions

September 22, 2011

The Honorable Robert Burbank  
First Selectman  
Town Of Andover  
17 School Road  
Andover Ct 06232

The Honorable Robert Burbank:

As an important partner in our storm restoration efforts, I'd like to thank you for your support and leadership during Tropical Storm Irene. The storm created unprecedented damage and required a historic effort from all involved.

One of our immediate lessons learned is that coordination and communications with our municipal partners must be strengthened. That is why I have been assigned the responsibility of focusing on improving that critical partnership in every town and city we serve.

We have already begun the process of soliciting your feedback by launching a post-storm telephone survey. The next step in the process will be a series of forums to exchange views and ideas for creating stronger coordination and communications during storm events. As we have heard from many of you, the most efficient way to begin this dialogue is on a regional basis. Therefore, we are working in collaboration with our Congressional leaders, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the state's regional planning organizations (RPOs) to make these forums a reality. We are very interested in your participation and hope that you will join us at these sessions once the final arrangements are announced.

We also anticipate participating in meetings with individual municipalities as another source of feedback. If you intend to convene such a meeting, we invite you to communicate directly with your assigned Account Executive to coordinate CL&P's participation.

Responding to storms of the magnitude of Irene requires an immense amount of preparation, patience and understanding from all of our customers. Please be assured that we are committed to working with you and all of our municipal leaders to ensure that when the next storm strikes, we work in true partnership to meet the needs of Connecticut's citizens and businesses.

Sincerely,

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Wally Schieferdecker inquired about storms and overtime and wanted to know what plans were in place for this coming winter season. Mr. Miller stated that we have budgeted for storms and that we went approximately \$40,000 over budget this past winter due to the storms. Mr. Miller stated that we are getting prepared for this winter and we will do the best we can and that last year was an exceptional year.

Mr. Schieferdecker inquired if arrangements had been made ahead of time with subcontractors and operators for use of their equipment in case we need to go into overtime. Mr. Miller stated those arrangements are in place.

Mr. Schieferdecker said there were citizens who were available to help when the town crew went home to sleep. Mr. Needleman stated that it may be a liability to put citizens on town equipment. Mr. Schieferdecker said that was the way it used to be.

Mr. Gary Riggio stated that David Caroline our public works director, already has a list of crews and backup already in place. Mr. Needleman stated that we are prepared, but record snowfalls took out some equipment this past winter due to the large quantities of snow fall, but by and large many people were happy with the town crews plowing. Mr. Needleman stated that we had a mechanic on call 24 hours a day during the storm.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Mr. Miller reported on the Elevation Certificate on the old Mazda Dealership land at 7 Main Street which shows a difference in elevation by almost a foot. The property was thought to be in the 100 to 500 year flood plain and the elevation survey is showing a discrepancy with this idea. Mr. Needleman stated that he is more interested in the liability to the town with the purchase of a contaminated parcel of land. He feels that it is critical to know the facts about the property prior to a purchase.

**OLD BUSINESS** None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Emergency Management Suggested Improvements**

Mr. Miller presented a short list of items that he recommended be purchased this fall either from contingency or by an appropriation to set us up in preparation of a storm this winter.

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Ivoryton	Board like Fire Department	material is aluminum, lettering is the same, no installation.	650.00	
Centerbrook	Board like Fire Department	400 Character Alphabet included	650.00	
Town Garage	CP Hydraulic Thumb	John Deer Model 310 D w/hoses & coupler, installation	4,450.00	Acorn Thompson
first responder	UHF 450 Mhz Control Station (regional Dispatch Interface)		10,000.00	
EOC	Repeater 1	1 in EOC,	8,000.00	UHF 450-520 Mhz Repeater
Town Hall	Emergency Management Flyer Project		5,000.00	Estimate
Essex	Email Spooler	\$1.99 per user per month (40 users is about 79.99) with \$40 one time set up fee plus 3 to 4 hrs of installation time (annually)	1,000.00	AT&T - spooler will allow emails to keep coming through even when no power, and the ability to access from another location at all times.
Ambulance	5 Portables		2500	
Essex	E Mail Spooler	40 users 1.99 per month	1000	allows e mail to keep coming with out power
Essex	Easy to Transport A-Frame	Sandwich boards 24 lb folded up sign, black steel frame. 2' x 3'. Used for PARKS CLOSED	132.00	<a href="http://www.carrot-top.com">www.carrot-top.com</a> catalog

Items on the list include signs and boards, hydraulic thumbs, communications equipment, and a flyer project which would be a municipal guide listing all of the information that you would need to know in case of an emergency.

There was discussion regarding the hydraulic thumb and possibly looking into getting a stiff arm because they are much cheaper. This change would need to be discussed with the public works director to see if this is a possibility.

There was discussion on the need for communication equipment to operate during power outages. Two repeaters and the interface would be a radio that would have the fire channel and the local government. Mr. Needleman stated that when the cell towers failed, we lost communications and the walkie-talkies didn't have the range needed. These two repeaters would allow coverage of 80% to almost 90% of the town by portable radios.

### **Town Hall Water Damage**

Mr. Miller reported on the water damage to the interior rooms of the town hall and hydraulic pressure coming up through the flooring. There was discussion on ways to fix these problems. The moisture in the ground is putting pressure on the concrete and is coming up through the floor and walls and is causing mold and mildew to form in the EOC room, the EOC storage room, the Town Vault, and the Maintenance Room.

Mr. Needleman inquired where the pour spouts from the town hall roof spouts go. The water runs off down to the outside of the building.

Mr. Gary Riggio suggested some options and recommendations. He suggested sealing the brick with a clear sealer because it is very porous.

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Mr. Riggio also suggested removing the sidewalk due to water run off which is going in between it and the side of the building and re-grading of the area. He also suggested for all of the roof drain spouts in that area to be tied into a drain somehow. Mr. Nolin stated there is a large cedar tree at the corner of the building and the root source is along the building.

The second problem is hydraulic pressure under the building which is causing water seepage in the EOC room and the vault areas.

Mr. Nolin suggested the draining work be done as soon as possible and to have a sump pump installed and possibly raising the floor 8 inches. All interior walls have to be torn out since they were damp. Mr. Nolin suggested the vault be taken care of at the same time as the EOC.

There is one large window in the EOC room and the walls are 16 inches thick. An option would be to drill an entire series of holes to allow the hydraulic pressure to come through.

Mr. Nolin stated that the floor in the vault has been cracked for years and town records are getting damaged.

Mr. Needleman inquired whether a vapor barrier would work. Mr. Riggio stated that he would like to make a permanent fix and doesn't know exactly how long the vapor barrier would work.

Mr. Needleman stated we need to fix the basement and inquired what it would cost to fix the inside and the outside of the town hall. Mr. Riggio stated that he would figure out what we need to do and the costs involved.

Mr. Riggio stated the Selectmen need to make decisions on what they want to do and what repairs they want done. He also suggested the town could save some money by having the town crew assist with the excavation which would lower costs.

Mr. Miller suggested the Board of Selectmen request contingency funds for these items. Mr. Needleman stated that whatever we do, we want these repairs and improvements to be permanent fixes.

### **Town Garage**

Mr. Miller inquired about the public works roof and gutter problem. Mr. Riggio stated that the garage is not going with gutters again due to the fact that the snow doesn't slide off and causes damage every year and is a danger to anyone walking under them.

A request was made from David Caroline to the Selectmen for funds to repair the problem. The proposal is a 3 foot overhang which would include removing and reinstalling lights and electrical wiring. The estimate for this work and request for funds is \$12,947.

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## **Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials (CRVCEO)**

Mr. Miller reported on the town belonging to a regional consortium which is a 9 town regional planning organization that meets monthly. Another group is CRERPA and this group is called CRVCEO. The First Selectman of East Haddam, Mark Walter, chairs this group. Mr. Miller went over a question and answer sheet about the group. Mr. Miller stated that this would need to pass at a town meeting and he recommended this go to town meeting sometime in the next 6 months.

### **Council of Governments Q & A**

**Q: What are we voting about?**

**A: The Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials (CRVCEO)**

**Voted on July 27, 2011 to become a Council of Governments. We are voting to ratify that vote.**

**Q: Why are we voting?**

**A: Connecticut law requires any agreement among towns to be voted on by the legislative body of each of the affected towns.**

**Q: What is CRVCEO?**

**A: CRVCEO is a group of First Selectmen, Mayors and Town Council members and Town Managers from Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Middletown, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook. It was formed between 2001 and 2004 when a vote was held in each of the 17 towns to form this group.**

**Q: Why was CRVCEO formed?**

**A: It was formed for several reasons: first, because the towns of this region have much more in common with each other than the areas surrounding us which include larger cities like Hartford, New Haven, Norwich or New London; second, it was felt that by bringing these 17 towns together, our area would have a stronger voice in dealing with the State of Connecticut and the federal government; finally, its monthly meetings are really the only forum for the towns to come together and discuss matters that affect all 17 towns.**

**Q: What is a Council of Governments (COG) and how is it different from a Council of Elected Officials (CEO)?**

**A: While they are similar, Councils of Governments can more easily and rapidly take positions on issues that affect its member towns and it gives the towns a more formal say in issues that affect the whole region.**

**Q: Why form a Council of Governments now?**

**A: Actually, the 17 town leaders have been discussing this for many years. However, over the last several years there has been much discussion in the legislature about reducing the number of regions and regional planning organizations in Connecticut to a number less than the current number of 15. Some proposals have suggested as few as 5 or as many as 10. For the next two years the State of Connecticut has provided funding to help defray the costs for regions that decide to voluntarily consolidate and are willing to form a COG. While this funding is important, the real reason for doing this now is that the 17 towns in this region identify better among each other than with the regions that surround these towns, which include larger cities like New Haven, Hartford, Norwich and New London.**

**Q: What guarantee do we have that once we form this group, the State of Connecticut won't come in and change it?**

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**A: While there are no guarantees, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has been tasked by the legislature with looking at the number of regions and they have indicated that they will recommend no changes to any regions that do this voluntarily now. OPM will not have to look at these boundaries again for 20 years (in 2032).**

**Q: How will this affect me?**

**A: It really won't. What it will do is allow our towns more local control over their own destinies.**

**Q: Will there be any savings to the towns?**

**A: It is anticipated that there will be savings as two offices will be consolidated into one and some employees have indicated they will be retiring.**

**Q: Where will the offices be located?**

**A: While a formal location has not yet been decided upon, the plan is to locate it centrally in the lower Connecticut River Valley.**

**Q: What about the structure of the new group and its duties and responsibilities?**

**A: Actual formal transition planning hasn't begun because until this new COG has been formed and this vote conducted, state statutes don't really allow for serious transition planning (Sect 4-124I of the Ct. General Statutes).**

**However, any transition plans will assure that no town receives fewer services than they currently do.**

## **CRRA**

Peter Egan, Director of Operations and Environmental Affairs and Thomas D. Kirk, President of the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority and Paul Nonnenmacher gave a PowerPoint presentation (See Attachment) on Comparing CRRA's New Municipal Service Agreement options since the current contract is expiring in 14 months.

The town signed an agreement in 1984. All municipal service agreements end on November 15, 2012. They have developed a new contract for municipalities to continue their trash flow up to the plant.

The economics of CRRA is that they are a non-profit organization and are here to provide benefits to municipalities. They do not run to make a profit.

There was discussion on the different tier options and the tip fee comparison tables on the slides. Tier 1 does not require you to commit to a tonnage. CRRA will take all tonnage, no matter what trash the town makes.

If Essex signed a contract today, and if CRRA signs another contract with another town with a better contract, Essex would also get those benefits because there is a "Most favored provision" in the contract.

CRRA has given rebates to towns to encourage recycling. The new agreement has a transportation fuel surcharge because of the diesel fuel charges. There is an opt-out provision in Tier 1.

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CRRA stated that they will remain as a nonprofit for the best interest of the towns. They do pay a recycling rebate. We have until the end of the year to make a decision. CRRA will always take garbage and make it go away in an environmentally correct way.

Mr. Paul Wallace asked a question about the 2% inflation slide in the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Paul Nonnenmacher discussed the PowerPoint presentation and that the 2% is just a guesstimate.

The question is does the Town of Essex want to go into a contract with CRRA. If yes, do we want to do a long term or short term contract.

Susan Malan inquired when the facility was built and was told the life span of the plant is estimated to be 20 years. CRRA stated that the plants are well maintained and there is no determined life span, but they expect more than 20 years. The turbines that generate the electricity are older but well maintained.

Mr. Keith Nolin brought up an incident regarding a fire in another recycling facility that happened just this morning. Mr. Nolin has concerns about the piles of garbage that he sees on Monday mornings at the Essex dump. CRRA stated that their standard procedure is to keep them empty and they were unaware of this problem and will look into fixing the problem immediately. Mr. Nolin stated this year especially there is a build up of garbage and the smell on the weekends in particular is terrible.

**Public Comment:** None

**SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:** None

**Motion** was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:55 p.m. Philip Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Lucarelli