

Minutes
Regular Meeting
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 10:00 am
MetroCOG Conference Room Bridgeport, Connecticut

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy)	Bridgeport
Adam Dunsby, First Selectman	Easton
Michael Tetreau, First Selectman, Chairman	Fairfield
Ken Kellogg, First Selectman	Monroe
Laura Hoydick, Mayor	Stratford
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director	MetroCOG
Devin Clarke, Regional Planner	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG
Eileen Lopez-Cordone, Community Relations Specialist	UIL Holdings
Kemeasha McDonald, Accountant	Bridgeport
Dan Rosele (conference call)	Arcadis

Minutes

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, First Selectman Tetreau, at 10:19 AM.

II. Public Participation: There was no public participation

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- a. **January 31st, 2019:** First Selectman Dunsby made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hoydick. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Action Items:

- a. **Employee Health Benefits for FY2020**

Mr. Fulda provided an overview of ConnecticutCare, with the recommendation to keep the current plan. First Selectman Tetreau inquired about possibly joining the Connecticut Partnership 2.0, but Mr. Fulda explained that this program would cost more.

First Selectman Kellogg inquired about the increased premium (\$100 per month) and the employee share. Mr. Fulda explained that for the last ten to fifteen years, 5% of the premium has been paid by the employee.

First Selectman Dunsby inquired if the plan was an HSA, which Mr. Fulda confirmed. He explained that the deductible was \$10,000 for families (\$5,000 for individuals). First Selectman Dunsby expressed his concern that municipal employees paid a greater share of their health insurance than the agency's employees.

First Selectman Tetreau suggested that only looking at insurance was not broad enough, and that salaries and all benefits should be compared. He continued that a subcommittee should be formed to study the issue. Mayor Hoydick agreed with this viewpoint and explained that comparing municipalities to small non-profits would be difficult.

First Selectman Dunsby described the collective bargaining process.

First Selectman Tetreau expressed his concern about attracting top talent to the COG.

First Selectman Dunsby made the following motion:

"That as of June 1st, 2019, MetroCOG maintains the ConnecticutCare high deductible plan with \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for families, with the COG paying 95%

of the deductible and 100% unless the monthly premium cost was materially different than the expected \$200 increase.”

Mr. Flatto made a motion to amend the motion as follows:

“The Chair will form a subcommittee to review employee compensation over the next year.”

The motion to amend was seconded by First Selectman Kellogg.
The motion to amend passed unanimously.

The motion on the table is as follows:

“That as of June 1st, 2019, MetroCOG maintains the ConnecticutCare high deductible plan with \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for families, with the COG paying 95% of the deductible and 100% unless the monthly premium cost was materially different than the expected \$200 increase. The Chair will form a subcommittee to review employee compensation over the next year”

Mayor Hoydick seconded the motion as amended.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

VI Communications & Announcements:

Mr. Fulda introduced Devin Clarke, the new Regional Planner.

a. LOTCIP

Mr. Fulda explained that towns are preparing to receive a few more preliminary applications and that he hopes to have all applications within two to three weeks. Mr. Flatto thanked staff for outreach to Bridgeport when the City had an idea of a new project.

b. Transportation Alternatives Program (FHWA)

Mr. Fulda explained that these applications were due in June. Ms. Sloan provided an overview of eligible projects and the submittal process.

c. HB7192 (regional efficiencies and opportunities)

Mr. Fulda explained that the COG submitted testimony which opposed the combination of the Tax Assessor and Collector functions and regionalizing the offices. He also expressed his concern about the potential reduction of the Regional Services Grant.

Mr. Fulda recently spoke with Representative McCarthy-Vahey about the bill

First Selectman Tetreau expressed his appreciation of Under Secretary Harris. However, he had lots of questions – the state anticipated using the bill to start a discussion but had no process in place to include Mayors or First Selectmen. He did not think the topic was being properly vetted. First Selectman Tesoro agreed that the lack of information was systematic.

Mayor Hoydick expressed her support of Under Secretary Harris. She explained that it was important to reach out to the Planning and Development Committee as soon as possible. She continued that the P&D Committee could get language ahead of time to get input from municipalities through the COGs.

First Selectman Kellogg commented that his Tax Assessor had interesting ideas that could be helpful. The state should identify obstacles and sensibly build on regional efficiencies.

First Selectman Tetreau requested that Mr. Fulda generate a letter for submission to the appropriate members of the P&D Committee. First Selectman Dunsby suggested that the original testimony be attached to a cover letter with the concerns about the bill bulleted and a request for further study.

- d. **Financials:** Mr. Fulda explained that there was no significant update to the financials.

VII Other Business:

a. Executive Director Update on MetroCOG Activities:

- i. **Hazard Mitigation Plan update:**
Mr. Fulda provided an update on the NHMP. A public meeting is anticipated for April.
- ii. **County Equivalency update:**
Mr. Fulda explained that he heard this item was moving forward.
- iii. **Regional Service Grant projects:**
Mr. Fulda received a few local responses about Laserfiche. He will prepare a detailed memo.

There was some discussion of the MPO realignment and engagement with other MPO members.

First Selectman Kellogg mentioned that another entity would act as the fiduciary for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.

First Selectman Tetreau commented that he preferred meetings end by 11. Mayor Hoydick suggested that members submit questions prior to the meeting.

Mr. Fulda mentioned that the Lieutenant Governor plans on attending the next meeting (April 25th). Topics will include the census and economic development. Members suggested a 9:45 am start.

First Selectman Tesoro thanked Mr. Fulda and the COG staff for assisting with the light at Chip's Plaza.

VIII. Adjourn

At 11:30 am, Mayor Hoydick made a motion to adjourn and was seconded Mr. Flatto. The motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adam Dunsby", is written over a solid horizontal line.

First Selectman Adam Dunsby
MetroCOG Secretary