



Town of Sterling

Town Hall
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Assessor: 860-564-3030
Building Official: 860-564-2275
Economic Development: 860-564-4752
Library: 860-564-2692
Recreation: 860-564-2136
Registrar of Voters: 860-564-2654

Revenue Collector: 860-564-7563
Selectmen: 860-564-2904
Town Clerk: 860-564-2657
Treasurer: 860-564-8488
Wetlands Agent: 860-564-2275
Zoning Official: 860-564-2275

DSET Docket No. 13-01
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Gentlemen:

Experts have concluded that efficiency and response times are improved by the establishment of consolidated Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's).

As First Selectman of the Town of Sterling and Chairman of Northeastern Connecticut Council of Government (NECCOG), Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications (QVEC) provides outstanding service to seventeen regional towns. They provide a superlative quality of service at a reasonable cost to the towns serviced.

Under the subsidy formula proposed by the Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (DSET), the seventeen towns served by QVEC would have their annual charges substantially increased by 74.9%!

In 1996, the State mandated Task Force recommended consolidation, joint ventures and regionalization of municipalities to better serve communities as well as save money.

Connecticut has only three large regional PSAPs (Litchfield County, Tolland County and Quinebaug Valley) serving 30% of the state's residents. These three centers have done exactly what was asked for per the 1996 recommendations.

I urge you to not change the current formula. Instead, urge the municipalities working independently to regionalize.

This important policy and economic issue ought to be looked at from the point of total savings to taxpayers, not from the point of view of preserving a state agency's budget.

Sincerely,

Russell M. Aray
First Selectman
Town of Sterling

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