

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield - Virtual), M. Capriola (Mansfield – Virtual), K. Stargardter (Tolland - Virtual), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia - Virtual)

Staff present: Director of Health R. Miller, Director of Finance A. Backhaus, Office Manager M. Brosseau

Vice Chair M. Walter called the meeting to order at 4:39pm

Scheduled Item: EHHD Public Hearing – Proposed FY24/25 Operating Budget, & Proposed FY24/25 CNR Budget.

M. Walter made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to open the public hearing at 4:39pm. R. Miller read the public notice into the record. (See attached). R. Miller noted that there were no written comments received. No public present.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to close the Public Hearing at 4:42 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

R. Miller introduced and welcomed Katherine Stargardter from Tolland. Boardmember introductions were made.

Minutes

M. Walter made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Public Comments

Outreach was done per Executive order. No comments were received.

Proposed Fiscal Year *FY24/25* Operating Budget, & Proposed *FY FY24/25* CNR Budget

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to adopt the proposed FY ***FY24/25*** Operating and CNR budget as presented; The proposal includes a member town per capita rate of \$5.95, with total spending in the operating budget and CNR budget of \$1,010,076 and \$54,000, respectively. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit Report – June 30, 2023; Independent Auditors Report on Internal Control; Auditors communication to Board of Directors

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to accept the comprehensive annual financial audit report as presented.

A Backhaus provided an overview of the audit and noted that it is a standard audit. A. Baukhaus called attention to page 14 of the audit that presents and overview of the 3 funds.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Columbia M. Walter reported that they are working with Square Peg Pizza to open a restaurant. The Main Moose and Winery are closed for the season

Mansfield R. Aylesworth reported that several new restaurants have opened in the downtown area: Haven Hot Chicken, Playa Bowls, Nautical Bowls. Husky Bar & Grill will be opening in downtown in the near future.

Tolland K. Stargardter reported that the town of Tolland continues working on the issue of a sodium chloride contamination of wells. There will be a public forum next week to talk with the residents of Tolland. The town is working on efforts to move toward resolutions. EHHD will be participating in the meeting and continue assisting with these efforts. R. Miller noted that his office will be providing educational support to residents.

Coventry D. Walsh informed the board that there was a fire at Woke restaurant and it is temporarily closed. Lakeside restaurant is awaiting a liquor permit before reopening.

Andover E. Anderson reported that progress is being made on the community center. He also noted that the town is engaged in a study aimed at making the town more walkable and bikeable. A STEAP grant will be used to add a playground and pickle ball courts as well as updates to the Veterans' memorial.

Directors Report

Staff Vacancy R. Miller reported that the part-time public health nurse resigned. Recruiting for a replacement will begin in the next couple of weeks.

COVID-19 Kit Distribution R. Miller reported that over 6000 covid-19 test kits have been distributed to schools, daycares, senior centers and town halls. Additional kits are available at the main office.

Radon kits are available at the main office.

Uninsured Vaccination Program R. Miller reported that the district is participating in a Bridge Program with the state to bring COVID-19 vaccines to uninsured and underinsured individuals. In addition, as part of the Childhood Vaccination Program the district continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to children 5-18.

ELC2 Grant R. Miller informed the board that a 1 ½ year no cost extension has been extended to this grant.

R. Miller informed the board that he has executed a contract for billing to Connecticare. He is pursuing contracts with Anthem, Cigna and Aetna.

Communications

E. Anderson inquired about what is being done regarding cybersecurity for EHHD. R. Miller noted that there is a service agreement in place with the Town of Mansfield IT department.

Adjournment

M. Wlater made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to adjourn the regular meeting 5:17pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – February 15, 2024, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Miller
Secretary



Eastern Highlands Health District

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**Eastern Highlands Health District
Public Hearing*
Proposed FY 24/25 Operating Budget & CNR Budget**

The Eastern Highlands Health District will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at the Coventry Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, Connecticut, to hear citizen's comments on the Proposed FY 2024-2025 District Operating, and Capital Nonrecurring Budget. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications received. Copies of the proposed District Budgets are available in the Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Mansfield, Scotland, Tolland and Willington Town Clerk offices. Written comments will be received up to the close of the hearing and can be directed to the Health District Board of Directors at 4 South Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268

*Virtual Hearing Option: In accordance with PA 22-3, this will be a hybrid meeting. Please email mbrosseau@ehhd.org or call 860-429-3325 by 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live. A video recording of the meeting will be available at EHHD.ORG within seven (7) days after the meeting. Public comment will be accepted by email at mbrosseau@ehhd.org or by USPS mail at 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268 and will be received up to the close of the hearing.

Dated at Mansfield, Connecticut, this 4th day of January, 2024.

Robert L. Miller
Director of Health