

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2016

Members present: B. Cornell (Scotland), J. Elsesser (Coventry), R. Field (Tolland), N. Nau (Columbia), J. Satriano (Ashford alternate), P. Schur (Willington), J. Stille (Bolton), D. Walsh (Coventry), S. Werbner (Tolland)

Staff present: R. Miller, A. Meriwether, K. Dardick, M. Brosseau

Call to Order: J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm.

R. Miller introduced Juliann Satriano to the board. J. Satriano will be representing Ashford.

Public Hearing

J. Elsesser called to order the public hearing at 4:40 pm. R. Miller read into the record the notice of public hearing. R. Miller noted that no written comments have been received. No public comments were made. J. Elsesser closed the public hearing at 4:42 pm. Legal notice is attached to these minutes

Approval of minutes of December 10, 2015

R. Field made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting as presented. N. Nau noted that her comment as recorded in the minutes should be that she asked when View Permit will be available to the towns. MOTION modified to accept the meetings as amended. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Proposed Budgets FY 16/17 and Fee Schedule

R Miller presented an overview of the budgets. J. Elsesser noted that development of the budgets was predicated on anticipated reduction in State grant aid. R. Miller noted that an additional budget driver is also the significant increase in the insurance premium cost.

N. Nau inquired if R. Miller shopped annually for insurance. R. Miller stated that EHHD is part of the town of Mansfield's self-insured pool. J. Elsesser noted that the board did ask Rob to seek other options either with other towns or other programs through the town of Mansfield.

J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by R. Field to adopt the FY 16/17 annual operating as proposed that includes \$83,212 in total spending, a member town per capita contribution rate of \$5.215; and further adopt the capitol nonrecurring budget as proposed. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to adopt the FY 16/17 fee schedule as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to increase the employee cost sharing for insurance from 14% to 15% effective 7/1/16. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Community Health Program Update – presentation by Community Health and Wellness Coordinator

R. Miller introduced to the board Community Health and Wellness Coordinator Ana Zeller, noting that she has been employed with the district for just over a year. A. Zeller proceeded to present an overview of the community health program to the board.

Town of Mansfield Employee Wellness Agreement

R. Miller outlined the high points of the agreement, noting that this is a 2 year agreement. J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to ratify the agreement, "Town of Mansfield/Eastern Highlands Health District Employee Wellness Service Agreement", dated December 21, 2015, as presented on January 21, 2016 for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

J. Stille inquired about the wording in the agreement of "up to \$110,491" and questioned if that is a per employee fee. R. Miller explained that there is a provision that unused funds will revert back to the town of Mansfield. J. Stille further questioned whether a per employee fee could be calculated for other towns that might be interested in services. R. Miller confirmed this is possible.

N. Nau inquired about the personal nutritional consultations and what would happen if every employee requested one. R. Miller noted that Ana is a registered dietician and can perform these. He also noted that in the 7 years that wellness services have been provided to Mansfield this has never happened however, should there be a spike in any services the contract would be revisited.

MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Bolton – J. Stille reported that they are looking at what to do with the town hall. And they've applied for a STEAP grant for a septic system for 4 municipal buildings.

Scotland – B. Cornell noted that the pig issue has been resolved.

Columbia – N. Nau reported that it is budget season; Columbia has been contacted by DEEP regarding Squire dam which the town must register and then maintain it or breach it; town parcels on route 87 are being consolidated and will be called the town campus; Senior transportation is being considered; Consideration is still being given to the changing of the beach structure – life guards, hours etc.

J. Stille noted that hoarding is an ongoing concern for both of their towns. J. Elsesser noted that the state hoarding task force is still working on possibly developing laws regarding hoarding.

N. Nau reported that a septic ordinance for around the lake is under consideration. Also being considered is a fungicide, pesticide, herbicide ordinance for around the lake.

Tolland – S. Werbner reported that a blight ordinance is being considered by town council. Council is also looking at a 500 person water utility and considering whether it should

remain a municipal operation or should it be privatized? Senior housing will be going into the Parker School building.

D. Walsh asked if there was anything new on the gun range. P. Schur reported that there are no new developments.

Coventry – J. Elsesser reported that the police department is using Narcan and they have had 2 saves. He further reported that the town will be taking over the ambulance service. A contract for staffing daytime ambulance service is being negotiated. Also being negotiated are the ambulance recovery fees. J. Elsesser noted that 310 pounds of drugs have been collected via the drug box at the police station. The box is being emptied almost weekly. S. Werbner inquired whether this is a regional service. J. Elsesser will follow up on this.

The grant to build a water tower and bring water to the villages may be amended to possibly reduce the scale of the project.

In conjunction with S. Werbner the issue with concrete foundations that are falling apart due to a chemical reaction is still being pursued. S. Werbner stated that the state is still in a study phase on this. J. Elsesser stated that this issue puts property values at risk, and that the tax base may shrink due to assessments being reduced. B. Cornell noted that this issue has been brought to the attention of real estate agents.

Subcommittee Reports

FY2014/2015 Audit Report and Auditors letter to the Board

J. Elsesser noted that the report has been reviewed and accepted by the Finance Committee.

A. Meriwether reported on the salient features of the audit.

Quarterly Financial Report period ending 12/31/16

R. Miller gave an overview of the quarterly financial report and noted that the quarterly report has been reviewed and accepted by the finance committee.

K. Dardick reported that there is a slight increase in positive cases of the flu. Internationally, the Zika virus which is mosquito-borne is becoming more prevalent. There is no treatment for the virus and it is a high risk during pregnancy. The mosquito that carries the virus is not prevalent in the United States at this time.

Director's Report

DPH meeting request re: CGS 10a-242 & CGS 19a-244

Department of Public health has requested a meeting of each District director of health and board chair to discuss provision of statutes relating to health districts, in particular provision regarding full time vs entire time which means there can be no side work done by directors. CADH has taken up the issue, seeking legislative change.

Communications

R. Miller noted that Dr. Raul Pino has been appointed as the Acting Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Adjournment

J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by N. Nau to adjourn at 6:16 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting, February 18, 2016, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,


Robert Miller
Secretary