

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday, February 21, 2019

Members present: J. Elsesser (Coventry), D. Kennedy (Mansfield), J. Higgins (Andover), T. Nuccio (Tolland), E. Paterson (Mansfield), J. Stille (Bolton), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia)

Staff present: R. Miller, K. Dardick, C. Trahan, M. Brosseau

E. Paterson called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

Approval of minutes

T. Nuccio made a MOTION seconded by J. Higgins to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Old Business

Proposed FY 2019-2020 Operating Budget, CNR Budget and Fee Schedule

Changes to proposed FY19/20 Operating Budget

R. Miller outlined the drivers and presented changes to the proposed FY19/20 Operating budget which have occurred since the budget was first presented:

- The Town of Mansfield has brought the employee wellness program in house, thus reducing the position of Community Health and Wellness Coordinator to half time.
- The Governor's budget was released and the result is a 2.7% reduction in grand aid revenue proposed in the original budget.

R. Miller shared concerns expressed by the finance committee during their recent meeting on the item. Specifically, the justification for how the benefits savings is appropriated. In particular, how it impacts the part time hours of the Community Health and Wellness Coordinator position. Discussion ensued. R. Miller, at the request of members stated the list of roles & responsibilities for this position.

J. Elsesser made a MOTION seconded by J. Stille to adopt the proposed FY 19/20 budget with the changes, without absorbing the state aid cut with fund balance, and as part of this motion to amend the budget as such, recognizing that that may allow some additional hours to the Community Health And Wellness Coordinator position, but that funding for additional hours can't come out of other staffing positions. R. Miller further clarified that \$3,140 (State grant in aid reduction) cannot be offset with an appropriation of fund balance, and must be offset with reductions on the expenditure side without impacting funding for any staff positions other than the Community Health and Wellness Coordinator. Any remaining available funding can be used to add up to 2 hours to the Community Health and Wellness Coordinator position. R. Miller and C. Trahan will amend line item accounts accordingly. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

J. Elsesser made a MOTION seconded by D. Kennedy to adopt the FY 19/20 capitol non-recurring budget and FY 19/20 fee schedule as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Columbia M. Walter praised the Health Department for their handling of a refrigeration issue with a restaurant.

Tolland T. Nuccio reported that there are 21 applicants for Town Manager

Coventry J. Elsesser reported that the building where Wicked Slice is has had the demolition done and the permit to construct the exterior has been issued. The Health Department is waiting for septic information before approving additional seating.

In addition, Pizza 101 and a nail salon will be opening in the building where Francesca's used to be.

J. Elsesser noted that the Town Council is considering a Creative Living application.

Andover J. Higgins reported that there is an agreement to use an area of the elementary school for the Senior Center. He also noted that they received a Connectivity Grant to install sidewalks.

Mansfield D. Kennedy reported that Francesca's is moving into Mansfield. He also reported that a slip line has been installed as part of the 4 corners sewer project.

Bolton J. Stille reported that Bolton was awarded a Connectivity Grant to be used in the Center of Town.

Dr. Dardick reported that they are seeing sporadic cases of the flu in his practice. He reminded the board that the season may not have yet peaked.

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel Committee D. Walsh reported that she met with Rob to review his evaluation.

Director's Report

Advocacy – CADH Bill Tracking Report.

R. Miller called attention to several bills being monitored by CADH. These include:

- HB5141 that would raise the minimum age to purchase tobacco or e-cigarettes to 21.
- HB6955 proposes that health departments enforce housing standards; this is an unfunded mandate
- HP7133 Reduces the blood lead level threshold prompting an investigation at 5 ug/dl, thus increasing the number of cases to be investigated. This comes with no additional funding.

Substance Abuse in Our Communities Workgroup activities

R. Miller applied for funding of \$9500 for local Opioid Community Prevention Activities.

Working with Mansfield Youth Services on the grant they have received to stage Narcan at Public buildings.

Quarterly Activity Report for the period ending 12-31-19

R. Miller called attention to the histogram showing that septic permits are up from last year. R. Miller reported that staffing levels are low – the Chief Sanitarian is at 1/3 time and one sanitarian is on extended sick leave. All towns are affected by the staffing reduction.

3 viable candidates were interviewed with 2 being scheduled for second interviews for the Chief Sanitarian position.

Communications

R. Miller re: Cyanobacterial Bloom in Lower Bolton Lake.

J. Elsesser noted that levels were just below poisonous level in Coventry Lake turned over in October.

M. Walter made a MOTION, seconded by T. Nuccio to adjourn at 5:55 pm. **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary