

Eastern Highlands Health District  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes –  
Coventry Town Hall Annex  
Thursday, April 21, 2022

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:32pm

**Members present:**

**In Person**

J. Elsesser (Coventry), L. Hancock (Tolland), D. Walsh (Coventry), E. Wiecenski (Willington)

**Virtual**

E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield), S. Powers (Scotland), M. Walter (Columbia)

**Staff present:** R. Miller, C. Bradshaw-Hill (virtual), M. Brosseau, K. Dardick (virtual), L. Swanson

E. Wiecenski made a MOTION, seconded b L. Hancock to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**FY 22/23 New Salary Pay Ranges – Implementation**

R. Miller presented the background on why these changes are needed, noting there is no fiscal impact.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiecenski that in concurrence with the pay range implementation plan, to authorize the Director to exceed the FY 21/22 maximum one-time merit payment threshold for the two subject Sanitarian II positions; Further, to authorize the Director to set the new base rate for the two subject Sanitarian II positions consistent with the new pay ranges; the new rate shall be based on the sum of the FY21/22 base rate plus the value of the FY21/22 one-time merit payment, and become effective July 1, 2022. MOTION PASSED unanimously

**Cosmetology Permitting and Inspection Program – Proposed Sanitary Code amendments**

R. Miller presented an overview of the program and the amendments to the sanitary code. L. Swanson was available to answer questions.

E. Wiecenski made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to set a public hearing date of Thursday June 16, 2022 at 4:30PM to receive the public's comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Eastern Highlands Health District Sanitary Code, Section 5, Barbershop, Hairdressing, Cosmetology, Nail Salon and Spa, as presented on April 21, 2022. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

The public hearing will be held at the Coventry Town Hall Annex in Coventry.

### **FY21/22 & FY22/23 Capital Nonrecurring Fund- proposed amendments**

D. Walsh made a motion seconded by E. Wiczenski to add the item FY21/22 & FY22/23 Capital Nonrecurring Fund- proposed amendments to the agenda. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

R. Miller presented to the board the necessity of the proposed amendments.

E. Wiczenski made a MOTION seconded by L. Hancock to authorize a spending increase of \$7,000 in the fiscal year 21/22 CNR budget; and further, to authorize a spending increase of \$5000 in the fiscal 22/23 CNR budget. Both increases are for the purpose of replacing a fleet vehicle. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **Town Reports**

**Columbia** M. Walter informed the board that he is experience lots of staff with COVID. In addition, he noted that the Main Moose should be opening soon.

**Andover** E. Anderson report the town is doing well overall. He noted construction has started on the connectivity grant; there is a project underway expanding the Rails to Trails access point near Lake Road; He further informed the board that senior activities are back to full swing.

**Mansfield** R. Aylesworth report they are seeing an uptick in participation of programs. He reported that the town has received a community challenge grant that will match funding for the Eagleville Green project. He noted that the downtown is recovering but not to pre-pandemic levels.

**Scotland** S. Powers reported that Scotland is having a roadside cleanup on Saturday, April 23 for earth day. As part of this there will be no passes necessary at the dump that day. She informed the board that the town has received a \$1000 tax kickback on nips.

**Willington** E. Wiczenski reported that the town will be signing a steep grant for a new septic system at the town hall. She informed the board that she is seeing lots of staff with COVID. E. Wiczenski noted that more meetings are moving to hybrid.

**Coventry** J. Elsesser reports that the town has received a trail grant that will ultimately result in connecting the Hop River trail and Nathan Hale.

J. Elsesser informed the board that round-about improvements are being pursued. Permeable sidewalk is being considered for the area.

A Steep grant has been received that will be used for methane venting at the landfill and adding a new softball field.

J. Elsesser noted that Hytone Farm is installing an anaerobic digester that will turn manure into natural gas and they will be able to sell electricity.

Projects are being pursued with Connecticut Water for additional extensions of the water system.

A Community Funding grant will result in the connection to Bolton Sewer System.

A sidewalk grant will add a sidewalk to Daly Road.

A Community Connectivity Grant will result in sidewalks from Coventry High School to Lisicke Beach.

The town is buying Open Space on South River Road.

**Tolland** L. Hancock reported that the town budget has moved to referendum and she is dealing with controversial issues. She informed the board that affordable housing regulations are being reviewed. In addition, 2 Firehouses will be demolished and 1 will be renovated. L. Hancock noted that the town is working with a developer to develop 240 luxury apartment units in town.

**Coventry** D. Walsh expressed enthusiasm about the rails to trails projects. In addition she inquired about the free test kits program. R. Miller informed her on how to get the free test kits from the government and that he was unaware of any future distributions of test kits to towns.

## **Directors Report**

### **Sodium Chloride (NaCl) Exceedances – private well survey**

Rob notified the board of this issue. He noted that in 2015 Environmental Health Staff began to observe an uptick in NaCl exceedances on water tests being received. The office began collecting data and compiling test results. 140 private wells are currently on the list. He noted that the location of the wells is protected by state statute. The Health District has a program in place to offer assistance to homeowners with these exceedances. Some of these incidents have escalated to complaints and referrals to DEEP. R. Miller will report on this further at the next meeting.

### **COVID-19 Activity Update**

R. Miller informed the board that Tolland and Windham County are still in the low category despite an uptick of cases over the last 3 weeks due predominantly to the sub variant BA.2. The Health District in partnership with DPH is planning for another surge. As part of the planning Tolland Middle School has been identified as a site for PCR testing if necessary. The site in Windham is also ready to ramp up and add hours if necessary. R. Miller noted that contact tracing has essentially stopped. The district is still responding to clusters and outbreaks by acting as lead or support in investigations.

R. Miller reported that his office pushed out guidance to support schools moving forward and to define an outbreak.

R. Miller noted that the district's social media messaging is expanding. In addition the office is waiting for the second round of ELC funding. In this grant, there is a large amount of money earmarked for testing.

R. Miller informed the board that a schedule of vaccination clinics is being developed for summer pop-up events.

### **Medical Advisor update**

K. Dardick commented on the shortcomings of the testing reports. His office is receiving a large number of calls of positive cases from home test kits. He noted there is now good medication available. A website for practitioners is available to inform as to which pharmacies have the medication available. He noted that his colleagues are seeing an overwhelming amount of cases of influenza amongst kids. He stated that this will likely be a season of late onset influenza.

(5:50 pm R. Aylesworth left the meeting.)

(5:55 pm D. Walsh left the meeting.)

### **CADH Legislative Session Report**

R. Miller called attention to Bill 5045 that will expand the protections for child exposures to lead. This will increase the number of orders that are issued by his office. The proposal includes funding from ARPA for 3 years. It is then suggested that reimbursement will come from Medicare. R. Miller noted that additional staff may be necessary to implement the mandates of this bill.

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In addition, R. Miller noted SB240 will mandate training for DPW workers by DOT & DEEP on salt application.

### **Health District staffing update**

R. Miller noted that a Public Health Nurse will be starting with the district the middle of May.

### **Communications**

#### **DPH re: Draft MOU between LHDs regarding itinerant vendor reciprocity**

R. Miller informed the board that Public Act 21-26 calls for reciprocal licensing for itinerant vendors. There will be a web-based platform developed to track who is participating. Local public health has been told that if they can't figure it out it may be mandated.

(6:05 pm C. Bradshaw-Hill left the meeting)

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### **Adjournment**

E. Wiczenski made a MOTION seconded by M. Walter to adjourn at 6:08 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

#### **Next Board Meeting – June 16, 2022, 4:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller  
Secretary