

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall – Conference Room B
Thursday, December 12, 2019

Members present: J. Carrington (Mansfield), J. Elsesser (Coventry), J. Kelly (Bolton), T. Nuccio (Tolland), E. Paterson (Mansfield), M. Rosen (Tolland), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walters (Columbia),

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau, C. Trahan, K. Dardick (5:35 pm)

Others: R. Fletcher (Ashford), E. Anderson (Andover)

Call to Order: E. Paterson called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Election of Board Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Assistant Treasurer)

E. Paterson called for nominations.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by J. Carrington to nominate and elect E. Paterson as Chair, J. Elsesser as Vice Chair and M. Walter as Assistant Treasurer. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Approval of minutes of October 17, 2019

J. Elsesser made a MOTION, seconded by J. Carrington to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Operating Budget, CNR Budget, and fee schedule – set public hearing date

R. Miller gave an overview of the salient points of the proposed finance committee operating budget, fee schedule and Capital Non Recurring budget. The primary points included:

- Total spending proposal of \$890,350 which is an increase of 6.5% from FY 19/20
- Member Town contribution rate increased by 6% from \$5.42 to \$5.745 per capita

R. Miller noted that drivers of the budget included increases in staff salary account appropriation, an increase in the medical insurance appropriation, and an increase in Other Purchased Services line.

R. Miller noted that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the budget on November 25, 2019. The committee supported forwarding the proposed budgets and fee schedule to the board for consideration and that any savings realized by lower than currently budgeted health insurance premiums offset the town contribution rate increase to no lower than 4.9% with any additional savings applied to offset the increase in the appropriation of fund balance.

J. Elsesser reported that the Finance Committee had a discussion about the use of fund balance and took the position that a formal fund balance policy should be considered by the

committee and taken up by the full board and that a multi-year increase in the PPO employee cost share should be considered.

T. Nuccio noted that the HDHP employee cost share contribution rate is generous as compared to the private sector. T. Nuccio expressed concern with the increase in fund balance contribution and the effect on the out years. R. Miller agreed it is not sustainable.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by T. Nuccio to set a public hearing date of Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 4:30 PM, Coventry Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street Coventry, Connecticut, to hear the public's comments regarding the Eastern Highlands Health District Proposed Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Operating budget, capital non-recurring budget, and fee schedule as presented on December 12, 2019. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Policy/Environmental Change for Chronic Disease Prevention grant contract – ratify

R. Miller requested ratification of the contract for this annual grant the district has been receiving for the last 9 years. The funds from this grant are used to fund limited chronic disease prevention services to member towns for which the primary object is to identify, develop, and implement sustainable policy, systems, and environmental changes that promote healthy behaviors. The amount awarded is \$21,932 annually for the next 3 years.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by J. Carrington to ratify the FY 2019-2022 Policy/Environmental Change for Chronic Disease Prevention, Contract #2020-0054, as signed by the Director of Health on November 6, 2019. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit Report – June 30, 2019; Independent Auditors Report on Internal Control; Auditors communication to Board of Directors

C. Trahan presented a brief overview of the audited financial statement done by Blum Shapiro.

J. Elsesser made a MOTION, seconded by J. Carrington to accept the financial audit. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Columbia – M. Walter reported that the Thunderbird Café has recently been remodeled and recommended all try it. In addition he reported that the Maine Moose had a successful season and is looking to expand.

Coventry – J. Elsesser reported DEEP has denied the tie in to the Bolton sewer system. J. Elsesser also reported that Cumberland Farms has started Development and are planning to open by the end of April. J. Elsesser informed the board that the Farmers' Market has moved indoors for the winter.

Andover – E. Anderson informed the board that development of regulations by planning and zoning for water quality protection in the lake area is a possibility. They will also be looking into regulations to reduce phosphorous run off into the lake.

Mansfield - J. Carrington informed the board that the 4 Corners Sewer project has been completed. The town is now receiving a lot of requests for student housing hook ups.

Tolland – M. Rosen noted that the Town Council goal setting session, identified advocating for the salt/well contamination issue. T. Nuccio noted that College View Condos

will be hooking into the sewers at some point. T. Nuccio requested an update from R. Miller regarding the NaCl issue. R. Miller and T. Nuccio will meet at a future date.

J. Elsesser informed the board that Coventry has initiated activities regarding the NaCl issue. R. Miller will pursue getting Health District representation on the state NaCl task force.

J. Elsesser reported that UConn is developing new techniques that will help with the crumbling foundation issue.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee Report – Financial report for the period ending 9/30/2019

R. Miller reported that the finance committee met on November 25, 2019 at which time they reviewed and accepted the quarterly financial report for the period ending 9/30/2019

Director’s Report

Strategic Plan Updates

Viewpoint Cloud upgrade

R. Miller informed the board that the Viewpoint Cloud upgrade will be launched January 7th; staff has been trained and will be using the next month to practice on the new system. A draft of the letter to be sent to contractors was shared with the board.

Cosmetology permitting and inspection program

R. Miller reported that he has drafted an ordinance and sent it to the attorney for legal review. R. Miller informed the board that his office will be engaging the regulated community beginning with an open forum to be held in January. At this forum owners/operators will be able to give input on fees, regulations and the inspection form.

FDA food code

R. Miller reported that there is no regulations from the state as of yet. Regulations are held up in OPM.

Annual Reports (DPH & EHHD)

R. Miller noted that the state annual report is framed after the 10 essential services. This framework aligns with national standards of accreditation of local health departments. R. Miller stated that it appears that DPH is collecting data to support future proposed changes to local public health departments either in funding and/or structure.

Quarter Activity Report period ending 9/30/2019

R. Miller called attention to the quarterly report from the Community Health and Wellness Coordinator, noting that the Health District is enrolled in the CT vaccine program for children 18 and under. This gives the district the option of running vaccine clinics for children.

Communications

Dr. Dardick reported that while flu activity in the Nation statistics has it as widespread, he is not seeing that in his office. He further noted that Pharmacies have run out of the high dose vaccine.

He also reported a shortage of the shingles vaccine.

Dr. Dardick noted that the Lonestar tick which is widely prevalent in the Southeast United States, is slowly making its way north. There have been scattered sightings in Connecticut. This tick carries diseases other than Lyme and the sugar molecule in the tick's saliva can cause a person bitten by the tick to become sensitive to eating red meat.

Communications

R. Miller noted that in response to the editorial regarding the rabies press release, Dr. Dardick wrote a response.

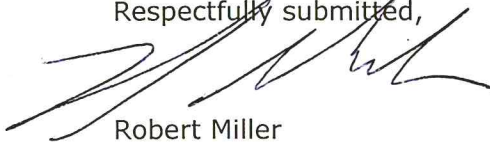
R. Miller noted that based on rates released by DPH there are schools in our district with kindergarten aged population that fall below the recommended herd immunization rate. These are in Ashford, Mansfield, Willington and Columbia.

Adjournment

J. Elsesser made a MOTION, seconded by T. Nuccio to adjourn at 6:30pm. Motion PASSED.

Next Board Meeting, January 16, 2020, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary