

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday February 16, 2017

Members present: J. Elsesser (Coventry), M. Hart (Mansfield), P. Schur (Willington), B. Syme (Scotland), M. Walter (Columbia),

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

M. Hart made a MOTION seconded by P. Schur to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2017 regular meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Old Business

Proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Operating & CNR Budget, and Fee Schedule

R. Miller informed the board that with the recent proposed budget from the Governor and the budget from the Commissioner of DPH, there is a \$13,000 deficit in the EHHD proposed budget. J. Elsesser recommended calling a special meeting of the finance committee to discuss options. P. Schur made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter requesting the finance committee meet to review the proposed 2017/2018 Operating & CNR Budget and fee schedule in light of the proposed funding reduction. MOTION PASSED unanimously

Town Reports

Mansfield – M. Hart reported that the record of decision needs to be approved in order to move forward on the sewer project at Four Corners.

Coventry – J. Elsesser reported that the town received the PSA allowing the town to take over the ambulance service, only to have it revoked due to the paperwork being done incorrectly.

Subcommittee Reports

R. Miller reported that the finance committee did not have a quorum to review the financial quarterly report for the period ending 12/31/16. R. Miller distributed an updated table of accounts to replace the one in the original packet.

R. Miller presented a brief overview of the report, remarking that with the exception of soil testing, most revenues are on track. M. Hart made a MOTION, seconded by B. Syme to accept the financial quarterly report for the period ending 12/31/16 as amended from the original packet. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Directors Report

DPH Local Health Department Consolidation Proposal

R. Miller provided an update DPH local Health Department Consolidation proposal. A response letter was received from the commissioner to Chairperson Paterson's letter.

There will be a Public hearing for this proposal. R. Miller noted that support from member towns will be helpful. J. Elsesser requested that an email be sent to the full board when the date for the hearing has been set soliciting support from board members. R. Miller will include some talking points for those board members who wish to testify.

The opioid epidemic: our communities, our concern

R. Miller reported that the forum was a success. With almost 400 people in attendance, 20 advocacy and service providers were present at the resource fair, 30 lbs of medication collected by the state police, 40 people trained in the administering of Narcan and 80 doses of Narcan distributed.

CADH Advocacy Committee

R. Miller brought the following bills to the attention of the Board – HB 5177 proposing to incorporate the international property code into the state building code. This will be changed to the purview of the commissioner of public health. CADH stipulates only conditional support because it is an unfunded mandate. M. Hart noted that Mansfield is also not in support of this because it would preempt the Mansfield Housing code that has been developed; HB 5169, HB 5765, HB 6033 which are in opposition of the commissioner's consolidation proposal; HB 5539 to legalize marijuana; HB 6243 and HB 6332 which will both impact the subsurface sewage disposal program.

R. Miller noted that the proposal to transition from state code to the FDA food code is not yet on the list of public health bills. However, it will be on the list soon. CADH is generally in support of this proposal yet has questions about a potential extra layer of oversight from state health department. Additional information will be brought to the board as it is made available.

J. Elsesser initiated discussion regarding the proposed bill for an act concerning qualifications of District Directors of health. R. Miller clarified that this bill is seeking to assure the Director of Health understands local demographics.

Quarterly Activity Report period ending 12/31/16

R. Miller presented a brief overview of the quarterly activity report, bringing attention to the charts showing that activity is about the same as last year and noted that food establishment routine inspection frequency is down to 77% of mandated frequency. This is mostly in part due to increases in complaints, well permits and food plan reviews.

Strategic Plan Progress Report

R. Miller noted that progress continues on the View Permit project.

Dr. Dardick reported to the board that influenza is on the rise and reminded the board that the peak for influenza last year didn't occur until the end of March. R. Miller noted that a weekly report from DPH is included in the packet.

Dr. Dardick informed the board that the center for medicare advocacy and universal health foundation is looking to collect impactful stories related to delivery of healthcare. These stories will be used by legislatures. Additional information will be sent to R. Miller.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM due to loss of quorum.

Communications

DPH re: Request for letter of concurrence

R. Miller stated his office will handle this matter.

B. Syme inquired as to whether any septic tanks have been affected in the same way as the crumbling foundations. There have been none reported yet.

J. Elsesser noted that a hearing will be occurring soon on the crumbling foundations.

Meeting ended at 5:52 PM

Next Board Meeting – April 13, 2017, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Miller', is positioned above the typed name.

Robert Miller
Secretary