

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield - Virtual), J. Elsesser (Coventry), H. Evans (Mansfield - Virtual), T. Nuccio (Tolland - Virtual), M. Walter (Columbia - Virtual), E. Wiczenski (Willington- Virtual)

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

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

Scheduled Item: EHHD Public Hearing – Proposed FY23/24 Operating Budget, & Proposed FY 23/24 CNR Budget.

J. Elsesser opened the public hearing. R. Miller read the public notice into the record. (See attached). R. Miller noted that there were no written comments received. No public present.

R. Miller reviewed clerical errors on page 5 of the budget, noting that they do not affect the proposed budget allocations. A corrected page 5 was provided.

E. Anderson requested clarification that the CNR budget included the additional \$2000 added to the vehicle purchase line item. R. Miller confirmed.

R. Miller reported that the Mansfield Finance Department notified the Health district that the medical insurance allocation has decreased \$4,640 for a total FY 23/24 allocation of \$135,460. This decrease is not reflected in the budget as presented.

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to close the Public Hearing at 4:40 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Minutes

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Proposed Fiscal Year 23/24 Operating Budget, & Proposed FY 23/24 CNR Budget

R. Miller outlined options on how to amend the proposed budget, given the change in the medical insurance line item. R. Miller requested the board decide how to appropriate the \$4,640 savings in the insurance allocation.

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to amend the proposed FY 23/24 budget to decrease the line item for health insurance by \$4,640 and a corresponding reduction in the per capita assessment to the towns. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to adopt the FY 23/24 Operating and CNR budget as adjusted by the board. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Willington – E. Wiczenski reported that there will be a referendum for the school building project on March 28, 2023.

Tolland – T. Nuccio informed the board that the town of Tolland has formed a Road Salt Task Force. In addition, a consultant has been hired to review the data from DEEP.

Mansfield – R. Aylesworth reported that a C.O. will be issued soon for the new Elementary School. The current plan is to open after the April break. In addition, the town is moving forward with the Facilities Needs Assessment.

Columbia – M. Walter reported that geese in Columbia continue to be a problem. A Goose Committee is working with DEEP to decrease the population of geese.

M. Walter reported that they are in the final stages of qualification for an HVAC Air Filtration grant for the schools.

A bobcat is still on the loose in Columbia.

Andover – E. Anderson reported that DPW workers have attended Green Snow Pro training and the trucks have been calibrated for salt distribution. The town is currently using straight salt, reserving the use of treated salt for the colder times of the year.

E. Anderson inquired whether the town of Coventry has tested the treated mulch. J. Elsesser informed the board that there is no product data sheet available for the product and therefore they have not tried it.

E. Anderson reported that a builder has been selected for the building of the Community Center behind the town hall.

E. Anderson informed the board that the town is part of the group "Hop River Trail Alliance."

Coventry – J. Elsesser that the project connecting the Nathan Hale to the Hop River Trail has been paused as the state wants an archeological study completed. An archeologist has been hired. J. Elsesser noted that the town worked with EHHD on the maintenance of the trail near Laidlaw Park.

J. Elsesser informed the board that the town will be submitting a trail grant application to get from South Street to the Skungamaug to reclaim a fishing easement.

J. Elsesser reported that the bonding for the HVAC in the High School project has passed. Work is planned for the summer.

J. Elsesser noted that Bolton is asking the town of Manchester to amend the sewer maps as part of the project to extend sewers from Bolton down to Route 44.

J. Elsesser reported a grant has been received to upgrade the sewer plant or extend it into the Windham plant.

J. Elsesser informed the board that he will be meeting with 5 homeowners that have salt contamination issues. This meeting will begin the discussion of reviewing the alternatives to address the salt contamination.

J. Elsesser noted that the restaurant *Woke* has opened. In addition permitting has begun for the building that was previously Daisy or Reids.

Medical Advisor Dr. Dardick noted that flu and Covid-19 are still with us.

Directors Report

COVID-19 Activity Update

R. Miller reported that influenza and RSV are trending down; COVID is trending up and hospitalizations are increasing. Tolland County is now at the "Orange"/High level. This is based on hospital beds being used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID cases in a specific geographical area. R. Miller noted that the prevalence of cases in the district has plateaued.

J. Elsesser initiated discussion on increasing education on test & treat programs. R. Miller agreed that that message should be reinvigorated.

R. Miller informed the board that free COVID test kits are being handed out at vaccination clinics and in the main office.

R. Miller reported that iHealth test kit expiration dates have been extended again.

CADH Bill Tracking Report

R. Miller informed the board that this item will be appearing on future meeting agendas.

J. Elsesser initiated discussion on the EMS Omnibus bill. R. Miller will bring this to the Advocacy group.

R. Miller noted that a report on the Cosmetology Program will be at the next meeting.

Adjournment

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:33 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – February 16, 2023, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller

Secretary

