

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield – 4:34pm), J. Elsesser (Coventry), J. Kelly (Bolton), E. Paterson (Mansfield), M. Rosen (Tolland), T. Nuccio (Tolland), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia), E. Weicenzki (Willington)

Staff present: R. Miller, C. Bradshaw-Hill, K. Dardick, M. Brosseau

Others: G. Greenberg, First Selectman, Scotland

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:33pm

E. Wiczenski made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to accept the minutes with the correction that the motion made by J. Stille was actually made by D. Walsh. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Scheduled Item: EHHD Public Hearing – Proposed FY 21/22 Operating Budget, Proposed FY 21/22 CNR Budget

J. Elsesser called the public hearing to order at 4:34 pm. R. Miller read the notice into the record. (See attached) R. Miller noted that there were no written comments received. Hearing no public comment, J. Elsesser closed the public hearing at 4:35 pm.

Proposed Fiscal Year 21/22 Operating Budget, Proposed FY 21/22 CNR Budget, R. Miller outlined the primary drivers of the budget:

1. A **Salaries** expenditure increase of 4.8%. The increase accommodates merit and promotion increases for eligible staff and an increase in hours for part-time staff.
2. A **Benefits** expenditure increase of 5.4%. The increase accommodates corresponding increases in basic benefits, a 2% increase in the medical insurance line item, and previously board authorized compensation.
3. An increase of 1.3% in the appropriation from the adopted FY20/21 figure is proposed for the **state grant-in-aid**. The state appropriated; and, we have received 102% of the FY20/21 budgeted revenues for this line. At this time, we are anticipating level funding into FY21/22 for local health departments.
4. A total member **town contribution** increase of 3.0%. This includes a per capita rate increase of 3.6%, plus changes in the population estimates.
5. A **fee for service** revenue increase of 5.0%. This is an aggregate of all service fee categories and incorporates estimated projections for the current fiscal year, extrapolates them into FY21/22.

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to adopt the budget as presented. J. Elsesser noted that the state budget is unlikely to reduce aid to health districts. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Columbia – M. Walter reported that a new restaurant, Columbia Kitchen is opening with a ribbon cutting on Friday 1/22.

Coventry – J. Elsesser reported that Husky Pizza is moving into the Former Beebe House; The former "Reids" will be opened by the owners of A Reverie. J. Elsesser informed the board that the paperwork has been submitted to DEEP to tie into the Bolton sewers.

Bolton – J. Kelly reported that Bolton has received a planning grant for the reuse of the Bolton Heritage Farm. They hope to use it as a gathering space.

Tolland – T. Nuccio reported that the senior center still remains closed, and that the COVID testing sites are running well.

Willington – E. Wiczenski reported that the senior center has set up a program to help the seniors with vaccine appointments.

Mansfield – R. Aylesworth reported that the Elementary school project is moving forward. They are now faced with the challenge of relocating Little League field.

Directors Report

COVID-19 Activity Update

R. Miller reported on the activities related to COVID-19 in which his office has engaged. These include

- Public Health surveillance in the form of weekly reports issued.
- COVID Testing sites extended through February
- Contact Tracing
- PPE Distribution
- COVID-19 vaccination clinics

R. Miller reported that the district received \$104,787 to reimburse COVID related expenses from the coronavirus relief fund.

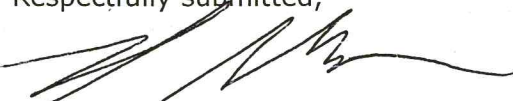
R. Miller informed the board that he is working with the state DPH to find large scale mass vaccination sites in Eastern Connecticut.

Adjournment

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:50 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – February 18, 2021, 4:30 PM via zoom

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary