

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 18, 2015 4:30 PM

Members present J. Elsesser (Coventry), M. Hart (Mansfield), N. Nau (Columbia), E. Paterson (Mansfield), C. Mailhos – via phone (Willington), J. Stille (Bolton), D. Walsh (Coventry), S. Werbner (Tolland)

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

Call to order: E. Paterson called the meeting to order at 4:36pm.

Approval of minutes April 23, 2015: J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by S. Werbner to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting. MOTION PASSED unanimously with D. Walsh abstaining.

Public Comments:

None

New Business

Proposed By Law Amendments – Article IV Board of Health, Section 7 – Quorum, and Section 8- Attendance

R. Miller reviewed the background for the proposed By Law amendments. The amendments were developed and reviewed by the Ad Hoc committee and distributed to the towns Andover, Scotland, Chaplin and Ashford for early review and feedback. The Ad Hoc Committee passed a motion at the meeting prior to the regular board meeting, recommending that the full board approve the amendments.

Discussion ensued regarding the language of the amendments that allowed towns to appoint proxies.

J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by S. Werbner to adopt the proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 7 of the Eastern Highlands Health District By-laws as presented on June 18, 2015. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

By consensus the proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 8 shall be held in abeyance.

Town Reports

Bolton J. Stille reported that Phase V of the sewer project has a June 30th completion date.

Mansfield M. Hart reported that CT water and UConn have received permits and are proceeding with the water project. The Wastewater project requires an EIE which will push construction out a year. M. Hart recognized M. Kurland for his service to the University community as he retires from the University of Connecticut. D. Walsh inquired about the building of Masonic Care. M. Hart stated that they are waiting for water and sewer before proceeding with building.

Coventry J. Elsesser reported on the start of construction for a preschool. Construction completion is targeted for August 15th. Smart start grants are being utilized to pay for the

classrooms. Integrated Rehab, physical therapy group, will be opening a facility in Coventry. Corner Store now has a food service license. The town is still working on plans to take over the Coventry Farmers Market. Coventry Fest is scheduled for Saturday, June 27th. Coventry has received the Playful Cities award for the 5th year and 5 medals from "Let's Move" effort. A joint project, with Mansfield, to eradicate fanwort in Eagleville lake will be begin soon.

Tolland S. Werbner reported that the Route 195 widening project will begin in July.

Columbia N. Nau reported that the library project has stalled due to permitting issues. Projects are underway for the Pucker Street Bridge and the Baker Hill Bridge. Columbia is working with Coventry to secure a STEEP grant to repair the Hop River Bridge.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee R. Miller reported that the finance committee discussed the use of CNR funds. CNR funds will not be proposed by the Director for agency operations in FY 16/17.

Personnel Committee M. Hart reminded the board that a special meeting of the personnel committee will be necessary for the Director's annual review process. M. Hart stated that the committee needs one additional member. N. Nau volunteered to sit on the committee.

Director's Report

FY 16 reduction in state grant in aid to town and district health departments

R. Miller reported that there is a 4.8% reduction in state grant aid to the health district. This results in a deficit of \$7,190 in budgeted revenues. The finance committee will discuss the issue following the finalization of the state budget process. The Director's office is sensitive to the issue. R. Miller noted that he anticipates receiving additional grant money, which may offset state reductions.

Strategic Plan Report

R. Miller reported on the progress of the strategic plan, highlighting the following:

Information Technology update – this effort continues. Data has been collected from all the assessors' offices. Positive feedback was received from CROCG to integrate the GIS system into View Permit. In the future an additional GIS system may need to be integrated to accommodate the towns not included under CROCG. At this time, only 1 GIS can be integrated. The test site is being reviewed and workflows are being created in the system. The goal is to have the Complaints and food service components completed by the end of the summer.

Community awareness/outreach update – Decals have been adhered to all EHHD vehicles. Press releases are being issued each month. The distribution of press releases has been expanded. Exploration is underway for expanding the functionality of the website to include something similar to q-notify.

Cosmetology program development review – R. Miller and J. Polhemus have completed a review and plan to engage the board on this issue as part of the budget process in the next fiscal year. J. Elsesser inquired about the regulation of tattoo parlors. R. Miller reported that these are not included.

Community Health Assessment A press release was issued 6/18/15 to encourage residents to "answer the call".

EHHD Customer Service Survey – data from the survey will be reported out in the near future.

CADH focus groups are convening to evaluate local health department services and are including restaurant operators.

M. Hart complimented R. Miller and his staff on their commitment to continuing work on the strategic plan.

Legislative/advocacy – CADH bill tracking list

R. Miller brought to the attention of the board the bill regarding Cottage Food Production. This bill has passed, however prior to implementation, DPH must set up regulations.

R. Miller reported that the bill to establish a task force to study hoarding and the bill concerning the Department of Public health's recommendations regarding funding for municipal health departments and health districts did not pass. The bill regulating electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products passed resulting in the regulation of e-cigarettes.

Quarterly Activity Reports – period ending 3/31/15

R. Miller noted that the histograms reflect that Deep test holes and septic permit numbers are not far different from last year; B100a reviews are down a bit; Complaints are up slightly and food service inspections are down slightly due to a gap in staff. K. Dardick questioned why housing complaints have increased significantly. It was thought that there have been additional tenant complaints regarding mold issues.

Communications/Other

K. Dardick noted that it has been a horrible pollen season and they are seeing an increase in allergy issues at the practice. In addition, they are seeing a decrease in tick issues due to the recent dry spell.

R. Miller noted that Avian Influenza continues to be monitored. There is concern of a mutation of the virus that will result in transmission to humans and then further mutation resulting in person to person transmission.

MOTION Made by N. Nau, seconded by J. Stille to adjourn at 5:50pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – August 20, 2015 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary

