

Eastern Highlands Health District  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes  
Coventry Town Hall Annex  
Thursday, June 20, 2019

**Members present:** R. Devito (Ashford), J. Elsesser (Coventry), D. Kennedy (Mansfield), E. Paterson (Mansfield), J. Stille (Bolton), B. Syme (Scotland), M. Walter (Columbia), D. Walsh (Coventry), S. Werbner (Tolland)

**Staff present:** R. Miller, K. Dardick, M. Brosseau, J. Russell

**Call to Order:** E. Paterson called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**Approval of minutes of April 11, 2019** J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED with J. Stille abstaining

**Public Comments**

M. Makuch, of 34 Old Farms Road in Willington, spoke to the board about an issue concerning water for his property. M. Makuch has been denied a well permit to drill a new well, due to the fact that he is within 200 feet of a public water system. And the town of Willington has denied connection to the public water system. M. Makuch provided written information to R. Miller and requested that the information be reviewed and that the board make a decision regarding the issue and forward that decision to the Selectman of Willington and the State Department of Health.

J. Elsesser made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille to add this item to the agenda for discussion purposes only. MOTION passed unanimously. Item added to the agenda as number 4.

**New Business**

**ViewPoint Cloud – permit tracking software upgrade**

R. Miller reported to the board that the current version of Viewpermit that the district is utilizing will be sunsetted in June of 2020. As a result, R. Miller is recommending that the district move forward with upgrading to ViewPoint Cloud. R. Miller outlined alternatives to the upgrade.

R. Miller reported that the financial implications were presented to the Finance committee and the Finance Committee made a motion to recommend the board fund this upgrade.

J. Stille noted that the towns were faced with the same issue.

J. Russell, Director of IT for the town of Mansfield, Mansfield Board of Education and Region 19, was introduced. J. Russell supports technology needs for the Health District. J. Russell echoed R. Miller's reasoning for the upgrade. He stated that this is the best option given the available options.

R. Devito expressed concerns about ease of use and user-friendliness.

It was noted that the proposed upgrade would be funded with \$12,000 from the Capital Non Recurring fund and up to \$4600 of the general fund.

S. Werbner asked if the district was being charged to transfer the existing data. R. Miller confirmed that the district is not being charged for that service. S. Werbner requested that a goal be set for when the new software would be online and available for public use. R. Miller noted that staffing issues will make it difficult to commit to a time.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille to authorize the Director of Health to negotiate and execute contracts with ViewPoint Government Solutions to upgrade from ViewPermit to ViewPoint Cloud; the Director is further authorized to expend up to \$12,000 from the CNR fund for the implementation, and up to \$4,600 from the general fund in FY 19/20 for increases in operating costs. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **Ratify Town of Tolland Employee wellness contract FY19-20**

R. Miller informed the board that this agreement with Tolland is to provide wellness services to Tolland Town employees. J. Elsesser made a MOTION seconded by J. Stille to ratify the Town of Tolland/Eastern Highlands Health District Employee Wellness Service Agreement, as presented June 20, 2019. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **Agreement for Local Public Health Emergency Preparedness Services By and Between the EHHD and NDDH for FY 19/20**

R. Miller presented the background on this agreement noting that there is an increase in the rate of pay for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator that will be funded by the PHEP grant.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille to authorize execution of the "Agreement for Local Public Health Emergency Preparedness Services by and between the Eastern Highlands Health District and the Northeast District Department of Health" as presented on June 20, 2019. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

### **M. Makuch Water Connection Issue**

J. Elsesser requested that R. Miller speak with the town of Willington. S. Werbner inquired about the districts' legal role in this situation. He suggested that this role be stated to M. Makuch. It was agreed that R. Miller would draft a response to M. Makuch.

### **Town Reports**

**Bolton** – R. Miller presented J. Stille with a plaque and thanked her for her 22 years of dedicated service. All board members wished her well on her new adventures.

**Tolland** – S. Werbner reported that the town is still working to resolve the crumbling foundation issue at the elementary school. S. Werbner also reported that they has been an increase in the number of complaints about contaminated wells.

R. Miller reported that the health district is involved in the investigation of these complaints.

**Coventry** – D. Walsh raised the issue of an article that appeared in the local newspaper related to bringing chocolate milk back into schools. D. Walsh is concerned due to the sugar

content of chocolate milk. K. Dardick was part of a committee that was involved with the removal of flavored milks, soda and sugary beverages from schools years ago. D. Walsh requested that the health district take a stand on this.

**Medical Advisor** Dr. Dardick reported that there are no major public health concerns at this time. The flu season is over and the shingles vaccine is still unavailable.

**Bolton** – J. Stille reported that the lake is green, but not toxic. And, they are waiting for a final report on the Nathan Hale Greenway.

**Coventry** – J. Elsesser reported that they are still waiting for a date for the hydrilla treatment of the lake. J. Elsesser noted that Reids was purchased at auction by the owner of Lakeview Restaurant. J. Elsesser stated that Pizza on Main had a soft opening and the feedback has been good. The town of Coventry continues to work on the sewer project with Bolton. J. Elsesser also noted that Wicked Slice should be opening within the next 2 weeks.

**Columbia** – M. Walter reported that the Main Moose has opened.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### **Finance Committee – Quarterly financial reports for the period ending 3/31/2019**

R. Miller presented to the board a brief over view of the quarterly financial report for the period ending 3/31/19, and reported that the finance committee met, reviewed and accepted the report as presented. R. Miller reported that the 20% cut from the state for next year's budget has been restored by 10%.

### **Directors Report**

#### **Substance Abuse in Our Communities Workgroup – Activity Update**

R. Miller reported that the workgroup met and is involved in many preventative activities. R. Miller noted that the health district worked with Mansfield Youth Services to develop a policy for pre-staging Narcan in public buildings. This policy will be shared with other towns for adoption consideration.

J. Elsesser noted that he would like to see the workgroup expanded to include vaping and e-cigarettes. There has been an increase in the vaping of THC in the schools, especially the middle schools.

#### **EHHD Schools MMR vaccination information**

R. Miller informed the board that a number of the schools in the district do not meet the 95% vaccination threshold. EHHD developed and distributed educational materials to the schools for distribution to parents. Dr. Dardick suggested that R. Miller reach out to the medical directors of these schools to see if they need assistance in educating parents.

#### **Advocacy – Legislative Report by CADH**

#### **Staff Changes & recruitment update**

R. Miller informed the board of the staff vacancy and reported that he is hiring 3 contractors who are sanitarians to help back fill the gaps until a permanent solution is in place. Active recruitment is underway and interviews are planned for early July.

#### **Advocacy Legislative Update – End of Session**

R. Miller reported on several bills:

- HB6742 An act concerning standards for the inspection of salons and a scope of practice preview for estheticians, nail technicians and eyelash technicians.  
R. Miller noted that development of standards at the local level will be delayed because the state will be developing standards.
- HP7133 This bill was defeated
- Bills related to the increase in the age of purchasing vaping products to 21 has passed.
- SB608 did not pass

**Quarterly activity report – period ending 3/31/2018**

R. Miller noted that restaurant inspections are down due to staffing issues. R. Miller expressed his concern because other districts and health departments are being targeted by media.

**Adjournment**

S. Webner made a MOTION seconded by M. Walter to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 pm.  
MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Next Board Meeting, August 15, 2019, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex**

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller  
Secretary