

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday, August 18, 2022

Members present:

In Person J. Elsesser (Coventry), J. Rupert (Bolton) D. Walsh (Coventry)

Virtual R. Aylesworth (Mansfield), H. Evans (Mansfield), T. Nuccio (Tolland), S. Powers (Scotland), M. Walter (Columbia)

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau, K. Dardick (virtual)

J. Elsesser opened the meeting at 4:30PM

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by T. Nuccio to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED with H. Evans and J. Rupert abstaining.

Per Capita Grant in Aid Funding Application for SFY 2023

R. Miller provided an overview of the grant and the use of funding.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to authorize the execution and submittal of the Eastern Highlands Health District's Fiscal Year 2022/2023 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Per Capita Funding Application as presented August 18, 2022. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Tolland Employee Wellness Service Agreement – Ratification

T. Nuccio made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to ratify the Town of Tolland/Eastern Highlands Health District Employee Wellness Service Agreement, as presented August 18, 2022. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Columbia M. Walter informed the board that the Economic Development Commission and Planning and Zoning department are working together to review the regulations and discuss how to make them easier to understand for people who want to do business in Columbia.

Scotland S. Powers following reported that a new garage has been built for Public Works. S. Powers informed the board that Scotland and Canterbury are looking at combining ambulance services.

S. Powers noted that Scotland and Hampton are in discussions to merge the elementary schools.

S. Powers reported that drought conditions have resulted in at least one house in Scotland losing fresh water.

Mansfield

R. Aylesworth reported that movement forward continues on the completion of the consolidated elementary school.

R. Aylesworth informed the Board that Phase 1 of Mansfield facilities needs assessment has been completed.

Bolton J. Rupert informed that board that the Bolton Board of Selectmen has expressed interest in having him remain in the role of Town Administrator permanently.

J. Rupert reported that the town of Bolton has been experiencing staff shortages and are finally back to full staff.

J. Rupert was happy to report that there were no issues with Bolton Lake this year.

Coventry J. Elsesser reported that Coventry Lake had a Health Advisory in place for 18 days due to blue-green algae. The condition of the lake is improving. They continue to watch the thermocline change.

J. Elsesser noted that he been asked to speak at an International City Managers Association panel on regional health districts.

J. Elsesser provided an update on the project to tie into Bolton sewers.

J. Elsesser noted that money is expected for a facilities plan to look at the current sewer plant.

J. Elsesser reported that the town is building a new transfer station.

J. Elsesser informed the board that the town is working with Hytone Farm on a food recycling plan. Hytone farm has an anaerobic digester and will be processing food waste around town.

J. Elsesser noted that capital projects include softball fields, addressing ADA and equity issues; methane venting at old landfill; Roof replacement at the High School and Robertson School.

J. Elsesser expressed sadness that the Channel 3 Kids Camp has closed and is going up for sale.

Finance Committee Report

R. Miller reported that the finance committee met prior to the full board meeting where they reviewed and accepted the report for the period ending 6/30/2022.

J. Elsesser noted that the finance committee will be meeting prior to the next Board meeting to discuss possible amendments to the budget.

Personnel Committee Report

R. Aylesworth presented an overview of the timeline for conducting the annual review of the Director of Health.

Directors Report

Monkeypox – LHD role/responsibilities

R. Miller presented a brief overview of Monkeypox in Connecticut and the roles and responsibilities of local health.

Dr. Dardick noted that nationally and internationally cases continue to rise. There are 2 vaccines and diagnostic test available.

COVID-19 Response Activities Report - Update

R. Miller noted that the district is seeing an extended plateau in the weekly case counts.

Dr. Dardick reported that they are still receiving calls in his office from people who have tested positive at home.

T. Nuccio inquired about school guidance and whether it has been provided to schools. R. Miller informed the board that the state has issued guidance. R. Miller noted that the clinic office staff have met to review and discuss the document to be ready to provide the best guidance and support to the schools.

NACCHO Annual Conference

R. Miller gave a brief overview of the NACCHO annual conference he attended.

Staff Vacancies

R. Miller reported that the position of Public Health Emergency Coordinator and the field staff vacancy have been filled. The field staff vacancy has been filled with as an entry level position.

Quarterly activity report, period ending 6/30/22

R. Miller noted the highlights of the quarterly activity report.

CT DPH re: Status of FDA Food Code Regulations

R. Miller informed that board that while this is still moving forward there is still uncertainty in the timeline of final implementation.

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to adjourn at 5:55pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – October 20, 2022, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary

