

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday, December 8, 2022

Members present:

In Person J. Elsesser (Coventry), E. Wiczenski (Willington)

Virtual E. Anderson (Andover), H. Evans (Mansfield), S. Powers (Scotland), J. Rupert (Bolton – 4:36pm), M. Walter (Columbia),

Staff present: Director of Health R. Miller, Office Manager M. Brosseau, Medical Advisor Dr. Dardick (Virtual)

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

Election of Board Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Assistant Treasurer)

J. Elsesser called for nominations.

E. Wiczenski made a MOTION, seconded by S. Powers to nominate and elect the incumbent Chair, J. Elsesser, incumbent Vice Chair, M. Walter and incumbent Assistant Treasurer, E. Anderson. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Approval of minutes

E. Anderson made a MOTION seconded by E. Wiczenski to approve the minutes of the 10/20/2022 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED with H. Evans abstaining.

Public Comments

Outreach was done per Executive order. No comments were received.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Operating Budget, and CNR Budget – set public hearing date

R. Miller presented an overview of the 2023/2024 operating budget and CNR budget, noting the salient features of the budget.

R. Miller noted that the finance committee met 11/22/2022 to review the budget. At that time they approved a motion to forward the budget to the full board, as presented.

There was discussion about the purchase of an electric vehicle. E. Anderson suggested the budget line item be increased to \$29,000.00.

E. Anderson made a MOTION seconded by M. Walter to set public hearing date of Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 4:30 PM to receive the public's comments regarding the Eastern Highlands Health District Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Operating Budget, Capital non-recurring budget, as presented on December 8, 2022.

S. Powers made MOTION seconded by J. Rupert to amend the motion to increase the CNR line item for the electric vehicle to \$29, 000. Amended motion accepted by E. Anderson and M. Walter. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

MOTION to set public hearing date of Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 4:30 PM to receive the public's comments regarding the Eastern Highlands Health District Proposed Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Operating Budget, Capital non-recurring budget, as amended on December 8, 2022 PASSED unanimously.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Audit Report – June 30, 2022; Independent Auditors Report on Internal Control; Auditors communication to Board of Directors

R. Miller note that it is a clean audit with no material issues to report.

E. Wicenski made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to accept the audit report as presented on December 8, 2022. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Columbia M. Walter reported the winery in Columbia will soon be selling beer; Main Moose has closed for the season. In addition, he noted that COVID is affecting many at the Columbia town hall.

Andover E. Anderson reported that electric charging stations have been installed.

Scotland S. Powers reported that a salt shed is being constructed. The initiative to merge schools did not get approved. S. Powers also informed the board that the town has received a grant to renovate the town hall.

Bolton J. Rupert reported the ribbon cutting for "All Town Fresh" was held. This is a gas station and a food service establishment.

Willington E. Wicenski recommended the restaurant Flat Pennies. E. Wicenski reported that respiratory viruses are sweeping through staff at the town hall. In addition there are large numbers of absentees at the schools. E. Wicenski informed the board that the consolidation of the 2 schools is still being pursued. In addition, they are awaiting the design from the engineer to proceed with going out to bid for the new septic system at the old town hall.

Coventry J. Elsesser reported that the town is on the list for funding from the Drinking Water Act. This funding will provide connections from Village Water system to a system on the other side of the lake, and from Village Water system to Nathan Hale Water system and down South Street to pick up 5 houses that have contaminated well. The town is still waiting on funding from a federal grant that will provide sewer connection through Bolton into town of Manchester. The town applied for 3 grants that include:

- Bric grant – to fund the underground wiring for the microgrid project.
- School Air grant – to improve ventilation in the schools

J. Elsesser informed the board that he will be retiring in July.

J. Elsesser reported that 2 restaurants are talking about opening.

Medical Director Dr. Dardick informed the board that it is an early season for flu. His office is seeing more flu than covid. He encourages people to get vaccinated. Dr. Dardick noted that monkey pox has been renamed to M pox and the cases have plateaued. COVID continues to be around and cases seem to be in the omicron family.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee – Financial Report for the period ending 9/30/2022

R. Miller reported that the Finance Committee met on 11/22/2022 and reviewed and accepted the report.

Director's Report

Town Opioid Settlement Funds R. Miller presented options for utilizing the funds that will be given to the towns. He offered further conversation on the topic if anyone wanted to call or email him.

CDC re: \$3Billion to improve US Public Health Workforce and infrastructure

R. Miller reported that funds will be coming to the local health department. There is no specific award amount yet. There does appear to be minimal reporting and flexibility in the use of funds. R. Miller noted that his professional association is on the steering committee that will development the formula for distributing funds and developing the work plan. J. Elsesser requested that R. Miller mention to the association that rural health has unique needs.

Governor Lamont re: Official Statement recognizing EHHD R. Miller shared the award EHHD received from the Governor

Quarterly Activity Report period ending 9/30/2022 R. Miller offered to answer questions.

COVID-19 Activity Report R. Miller reported that the funding source for vaccination activities as transitioned. The criteria and objectives of the new funding have been modified to include a strong educational and prevention component.

R. Miller noted case counts have plateaued. The office is seeing an increase in reports of Flu cases and absenteeism in schools.

EHHD 2021/2022 Annual Report R. Miller offered an original copy to anyone who wanted it. Reports will be distributed to each of the town buildings.

Communications

Local Health Annual Report Feedback R. Miller informed the board that the information required for the annual report to the state health department has evolved to align with the 10 essential services. The Health District has fallen short on a number of the deliverables due to the pandemic. R. Miller anticipates making progress on these deliverables with the report being made next month.

Adjournment

MOTION made by M. Walter, seconded by E. Anderson to adjourn at 5:42 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary