

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday, December 15, 2016

Members present: J. Elsesser (Coventry), M. Hart (Mansfield), E. Paterson (Mansfield), P. Schur (Willington), J. Stille (Bolton), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walters (Columbia), S. Werbner (Tolland)

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau

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

Approval of minutes of October 20, 2016

J. Elsesser made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

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

MOTION made by M. Hart seconded by J. Stille to nominate and elect E. Paterson as Chair. MOTION PASSED with E. Paterson abstaining.

MOTION made by M. Hart seconded by P. Schur to nominate and elect J. Elsesser as Vice Chair. MOTION PASSED with J. Elsesser abstaining.

MOTION made by J. Elsesser seconded by M. Hart to nominate and elect J. Stille as Assistant Treasurer. MOTION PASSED with J. Stille abstaining.

Approved 2016 Regular Meeting Schedule – Proposed revision

J. Elsesser made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille to accept the 2017 revised meeting schedule as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budgets and fee schedule – set public hearing date

R. Miller gave a brief overview of the salient points of the budget. R. Miller noted that the finance committee met three times in the weeks prior to the board meeting and at the last meeting on 12/15/16 voted unanimously to forward the budget as presented to the full board for their consideration.

Total spending package of \$829,050 which is an increase of 0.7%, and includes a 1.5% increase in the contribution rate from member towns. Primary drivers for the budget include a 6% reduction in medical insurance costs, a change in enrollment counts, and a .5% increase in employee cost-sharing. Additionally driving forces were, retirement of a senior sanitarian and a reduction in state grant in aid. The budget also includes an estimated 4.0% increase in fees for service is proposed.

J. Elsesser and J. Stille both expressed appreciation of R. Miller's efforts to prepare the budget.

E. Paterson encouraged board members to stay in touch with their legislators. And inform R. Miller of any health department related issues.

J. Elsesser made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille to set a public hearing date of Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 4:30 pm, Coventry Town Hall Annex, 1712 Main Street Coventry, CT, to hear the public's comments regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Eastern Highlands Health District operating budget, capital non-recurring budget, and fee schedule as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Recognition of 20 years of service

E. Paterson announced to the board that at a Mansfield Celebration, R. Miller was recognized for 20 years of service.

Chairs Report

DPH Proposal to Consolidate Local Health Departments

R. Miller shared his observations of the Commissioner's Town Hall forum. R. Miller's impression is that the Commissioner is committed to moving forward with the issue of consolidation. He identified critical public health issues in the state as well as recognizing that the State of CT is 3rd healthiest state. The commissioner focused on the notion of health inequities in the state and outlined the proposed framework. Board members expressed opposition. J. Elsesser shared a letter written by CRCOG to be sent to the commissioner. General consensus was that the district should pursue compiling a similar letter signed by all the district legislatures, to be sent to the commissioner. M. Hart Made a MOTION, seconded by J. Stille, to write a letter to the commissioner. After discussion, the MOTION was AMENDED to write 2 letters; one written to the commissioner that is signed by the Chairperson, and a seconded written to the legislators requesting they sign a joint letter to the commissioner. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Mansfield – M. Hart reported that the 4 corners water and sewer project is progressing. The sewer project had to go through an Environmental Impact Study and approval has not yet been granted by OPM.

D. Walsh inquired of M. Hart how this would affect the proposal for Masonicare. M. Hart noted that Masonicare would need to pay for a connection to the water system.

Coventry – J. Elsesser reported that the Main Street construction project lead to the discovery of a sewer leak; A major design flaw discovered in Coventry lake outflow reconstruction. Still pursuing the sewer flow study for Bolton; Ambulance transfer of ownership is still not concluded.

Director's Report

Substance Abuse in our Communities Workgroup – Update

R. Miller presented a draft program agenda and flyer. Board members requested that R. Miller send out a request for financial assistance to member municipalities.

Strategic Plan

R. Miller reported that staff continues to work to use View Permit and staff training has been scheduled. The implementation of View Permit is directly tied to numerous outstanding strategic plan objectives.

D. Walsh inquired about the progress of Board recruitment. R. Miller noted that there has been no change.

Quarterly Activity Report

R. Miller noted that soil testing is down significantly. This is an indication of the volatility of soil testing and is reflected in revenue fees.

Communications

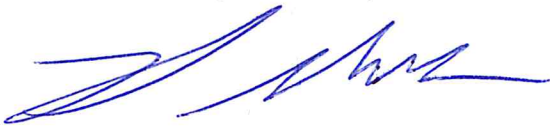
R. Miller reported that EHHD received a reward from the CT chapter of the American Planning Association for their involvement in the Plan4Health Program.

Adjournment

J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by M. Hart to adjourn at 5:44 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting, January 19, 2017, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller

Secretary