

EHHD Finance Committee  
Special Budget Meeting  
Minutes  
Friday November 18, 2016  
Audrey P Beck Municipal Building  
Conference Room C

Call to order at 9:04AM.

Present: J Elsesser, E Paterson, J Stille, R Field, P Schur, A Meriwether, R Miller

J Stille MOVED, J Elsesser seconded to approve the meeting minutes from 10/20/16 as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

R Miller presented the proposed FY17/18 operating budget, CNR budget, and fee schedule. Proposed budget highlights include: 4% total spending increase for total spending of \$855,984, and a 6.7% increase in the member town contribution rate. The primary budget drivers include increases in medical insurance costs, staff wage increases, and reductions in the state grant-in-aid. Discussion ensued.

Members expressed serious concern regarding the state of Connecticut budget, and its potential impacts to local budgets. Some members indicated a need to seriously consider service reductions.

Given current and projected reduced soil testing activity and its implications for future building activity some members questioned whether staff reductions would result in actual service reductions. It was noted that while soil testing is down other areas like B100 reviews and well permitting is up. R Miller expressed concern with the feasibility applying any field staff reductions equally among member towns given our decentralized structure.

It was noted that there may be savings opportunities from upcoming staff retirement, and possible transition to high deductible health savings account insurance plan. Mansfield has indicated a target date of January 1, 2018 to start a new HSA plan that would be available to the health district.

After much discussion, by a consensus of the members the director was instructed to provide three budget scenarios for consideration with total proposed spending at (1) a zero increase, (2) a 2.0% increase, and (2) a 2.5 % increase, with a town contribution rate increase of no more then 2.5%. Information on service impacts is also to be provided.

Additional direction provided by members included; reduce proposed salary/benefit lines to meet identified spending thresholds (review feasibility of sharing field staff with other health departments), purchasing equipment this fiscal year and decreasing proposed equipment lines for next year, review fee schedule rates

for additional revenue potential, review feasibility of deferring vehicle purchase, and include a modest increase in the fund balance appropriation if needed.

By consensus, the next special budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 7, 2016, 3:00PM, at the Audrey P Beck Municipal building.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Miller', written in a cursive style.

Robert Miller

Secretary

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