



Westport Weston
Health District

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING

WWHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 14, 2016

Subject to change until approval by Board of Directors

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman Otis Crawford at 7:30 pm. The following voting Board Members were present: Chairman Otis Crawford; Director Catherine Revzon, and Director Dr. Loffredo.

Also present were: Mark A.R. Cooper, Director of Health; John Cimarosa, Director of Finance and Special Projects, and Dr. Steinman, Medical Advisor.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Crawford asked if there were any questions or comments on the September 12, 2016 Minutes. Being no questions or comments, on a motion made by Director Revzon and seconded by Chairman Crawford, the November 14, 2016 Minutes were approved. Chairman Crawford voted yes; Director Revzon voted yes and Director Loffredo abstained from voting.

Motion was approved 2 to 0, 1 Abstained

Director Wendy Stahl (arrived at 7:40 pm),

Director of Health Report

Mr. Cooper noted that there had been was no correspondence for the Board up to the other day, but that on the day of mailing the Director's packages, a letter from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities dated November 4, 2016 did come in so he had it included. He felt that the letter, addressing State Commissioner Pino's public health consolidation plan was important to get to each Director as soon as possible. There was general discussion on Commissioner's Pino's proposal and what it might mean for public health in Connecticut. Mr. Cooper added that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities was having their annual conference November 15 which will include workshops on this topic, which he plans to attend.

Mr. Cooper summarized the operational reports and the plan submittal reports for the months of September, and October. He gave a brief explanation of the data and how each report is used.

Mr. Cimarosa noted that in regards to the Consolidated Income Statements, it would appear the District is doing very well fiscally. He added that such a conclusion might not be accurate in that

the numbers are skewed because the Town of Westport paid an installment of their Health Assessment in October rather than in November. The report includes two payments from Westport and one from Weston. What appears to be \$127,000 in the black is actually \$8,000 in the red, meaning the Health District is behind as compared to last year.

Mr. Cimarosa also noted that there has been a substantial drop off in construction in the area and thus, the amount of environmental fees collected. About \$400,000 in environmental fees have been collected in each of the past four years, fee collection is down to about \$360,000. The decline has been most noticeable the past two months. Only time will tell if this decline will continue. Community Health revenue appears to be doing good; it still exceeds last year's level. This is not likely to continue because the Health District accepts insurance payments for the vaccinations it provides and the insurance reimbursement rates keep going down. Anthem insurance has insisted on a contract that includes most of the Travel Clinic vaccinations and have bundled the administration reimbursement fee. The insurance payments received are much less than what used to be collected as the administration fee. This will have a significant impact as the Health District moves forward.

Chairman Crawford asked if Anthem is the only insurance company bundling the administration reimbursement fee. Mr. Cimarosa responded that the Health District is working with four insurance companies. Most have agreed to flu and pneumonia vaccination contracts only but he does not think this will last.

Chairman Crawford asked what Medicare pays for. Mr. Cimarosa responded flu and pneumonia vaccinations only.

Director Loffredo asked where else can citizens get typhoid vaccinations? Mr. Cimarosa indicated places like Passport Health and Norwalk Health Department gives typhoid vaccinations. There was general discussion on typhoid and other travel clinic vaccinations.

Chairman Crawford asked for the total number of flu vaccinations given so far this year. Mr. Cimarosa indicated 679 flu vaccinations were administered so far, well below last year's total. However, as in previous years once the local box stores have given away all their free vaccinations, the Health District is where citizens can still come for a vaccination. Mr. Cooper added that currently there is a very low level of flu activity. Once flu starts actively circulating in the community, people start calling looking to be vaccinated.

Director Revzon noted that she made an appointment to get a flu vaccination at the Health District and found out once she got to the District office that her insurance did not cover the cost. She feels there is a need to better inform people that some insurance companies do not cover the cost. Mr. Cimarosa indicated the consent form does inform people of such, but that it will be looked at.

There was general discussion on licensure, fees and work associated with restaurants, farmers markets, spas, and cosmetology facilities.

Director Stahl asked about expenditures in the office supplies line item. Mr. Cimarosa indicated that this is the line that vaccines are purchased through and that it reflects the rising costs of what we purchase. There was discussion about posting a list of all the vaccinations the Health District provides on the District's website so that people know what we have to offer. It was also suggested some explanation of why one should consider getting each vaccination be posted on the web site.

Financial Report

Mr. Cimarosa indicated that the Health District received several grants; there is the regional MRC grant (about \$11 to \$12,000) that the Health District administers, Lead grant (about \$2,500), Preventive Health Block grant (about \$8,000), and there is an Emergency Preparedness grant (about \$27,000). State grants keep getting reduced and it is very difficult to project future availability. Additionally, Westport and Weston are assessed a significant amount of per capita funding and the Health District's fees are fairly high. There are not a lot of places look to add revenue.

Strategic Planning

Mr. Cooper noted that although the Board has been discussing starting a strategic planning process, the State Commissioner of Health has proposed an extensive reorganization and consolidation of local health. If this is approved by the Legislature next year, it will have a huge impact on local public health. Such a major change needs to be accounted for in any strategic planning process; therefore, it recommended that the formal process be delayed until the outcome of the plan is known. In the mean time, Health District staff can be assembling data and pulling together background information that will be needed. He thought this was important in view of the fact that the majority of Directors are new to the Board.

Mr. Cimarosa noted that one of the grants the Health District does have, the Preventive Health Block Grant, allows for the preparation to become accredited. One of the requirements for accreditation is having a current strategic plan. These funds can be used to pay staff to do an audit of what information the Health District needs to achieve accreditation , what is available, and what needs to get done.

There was general discussion on the accreditation process and what are the information needs of the Board. It was agreed District department heads will be scheduled to attend future meetings to outline what their department does, discuss perceived challenges and strengths, starting with Environmental Health.

There was general discussion on the Commissioner's proposal to consolidate local health jurisdictions into 8 County Health departments

Any Other Business

In response to a question from Chairman Crawford, there was a general discussion on the Mosquito and Tick-borne Disease Task Force efforts during the past year and what might be planned for next year.

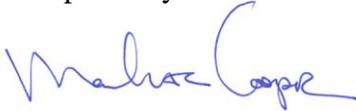
In response to a question from Director Stahl about next year's meeting schedule, there was a general discussion of the District's meetings and it was agreed to send the official schedule to all the members.

Being no additional business, on a motion by Director Stahl and seconded by Director Revzon, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Chairman Crawford voted yes; Director Revzon voted yes, Director Stahl voted yes and Director Loffredo voted yes.

Motion was approved 4 to 0

Respectfully submitted



Mark A.R. Cooper Director of Health
Westport Weston Health District