

**TORRINGTON AREA HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
VIA ZOOM
July 23, 2020**

Members Present: N. Rahuba, L. Timolat, R. Collins, T. McClintock, G. Gourley, W. Minacci, A. Scappaticci, A. Orsini, P. Oliver, J. Magda, T. Waldron, J. Wright, G. Lacava, J. Wilk, J. Lambo, K. Wilson

Staff Present: R. Smith, R. Rubbo, T. Stansfield, D. Fox

Meeting called to order at 7PM by Chairman Collins

Opening Comments: Lou Timolat term on the Board has recently expired due to COVID restriction and all that is happening he has a verbal re-appointment from the Town of Canaan and will be able to vote on any action necessary for this meeting as an active member.

1. Minutes

- **Motion made by G. Lacava and T. McClintock respectively to accept the minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting as written. With no objections and 1 abstention the motion carried.**

2. Board of Health and Staff

a. Changes in Board Members

- Moment of silence for the passing of Board Member JoAnn Battistoni
- Welcoming of new member J. Lambo, representing the Town of Watertown, Josh Tyson, representing Cornwall, and Elisa Bauer, representing the Borough of Litchfield.

b. Changes in staff

- Joanna Keyes has been hired as Public Health Specialist

3. TAHD related business from Board Members – (to be placed on the agenda)

4. Chairman Report- Collins

- Thanking the TAHD staff for all the time spent working on COVID 19 event.
Motion made by T. McClintock and N.Rahuba respectively to thank the staff for all the work and time spent during COVID pandemic. Hearing no objections or abstentions the motion carried.
- Compliments to Director Rubbo for correspondence he authored to State Representatives and Senators in regards to funding cuts to the State Per Capita as LHD deal with increase work capacity during the pandemic.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – G. Gourley

- No report currently

b. Finance Committee – L. Timolat

- Use of R. Rubbo's letter as template to draft letter to the town legislators pertaining to Per Capita funding
- Resolution adopted by the Board of Finance noting the commendable out-come of the past fiscal year. Not- withstanding the delay getting the funds from the State. Along with commending the Director and staff for performance during the pandemic in-particular in endorsing the Director's efforts to receive grants in the interest of Public Health.
- Will support the adjustments to the Schedule of allocations.
- FY YE20 Budget updates – Rubbo
 - All Per Capita monies received
 - Licenses, permits and Fees higher income than budgeted.

- Grant income- more monies than expected and awaiting additional funding Prevention Block Grant.
- SPF-Rx, Academic Detailing and ODMAPP are additional Opioid grants with additional monies associated with each. These additional funds are all in direct correlation with excellent work done by A. Domnich- Kovalevsky on a statewide level as well as nationally.
- Expense side – Wages that were budgeted and what was expended were very close. On the benefits side was close to budget as well.
- FY 20 could end with a positive revenue of approximately \$86, 000.
- FY 21 Budget
 - Budgeted for a 10% cut in the State Per Capita. The cut came thought as 8.5% which is about \$4,300.
 - Schedule of Allocation –
 - Proposed change to Schedule of Allocation
 - 350 Main St. Storage building**
install a ductless HVAC system to the building for the proposed use of the building for storage of Emergency Preparedness supplies for all the Mass Vaccination clinics that will be run in the District. Also allowing us to empty out one of the storage rooms that are located on the 2nd floor of the TAHD main office building which in the future can be used for office space. The amount for the installation will be \$4888.
 - At this point Director Rubbo would like a motion for the Schedule of Allocations
Motion was made by T. McClintock and J. Lambo respectively to accept the Schedule of Allocations as proposed. Hearing no objections or abstentions the motion carried.

c. Building Committee – T. Breakell (R. Rubbo presenting)

- HVAC unit in the small storage building (as previously discussed)
- Hiring the services of a tree cutter to cut back trees in the parking lot at 350 Main St. Funds to be secured through operating budget.
- Rental space available at rear of 350 Main St.

6. Director's Report – R. Rubbo

- COVID 19 update
 - Health District currently has 1119 cases, 116 deaths, case rates continue to drop significantly.
 - State perspective 48,223 cases, 127 new cases, 0 deaths, 1 additional hospitalization. 11, 529 test performed as of 7/22/2020. The number that is continuously looked at is the number hospitalizations statewide as of 7/22/2020 the total number is 63. During the peak hospitalization was approximately 2,000. At the peak the total number of hospitalization was the main reason the State was shut down, so the surge capacity of the hospitals was not taxed.
 - Hartford Health Care provides antibody testing
 - Many new sector rules coming out on a weekly basis. Staff has been very busy interrupting these rules and enforcing them. Questions and answers and consultation take up the majority of time. Fielding several complaints regarding social distancing rules. Masking wearing violations as it relates to food service establishments. Continuing to consult with municipalities, EMS, Fire, Police, restaurants as it applies to local businesses. Many phones calls are fielded every day from various disciplines in regards to exposure etc.
 - Contact tracing site – called "Contact CT" is in use at TAHD – time consuming. Many participants are opting out and refuse to be contact traced. Case follow ups are hesitant to give names of those they have been in contact with.
 - Mass Vaccination Plans- TAHD will be playing a major role in vaccinations when it comes to those who will be vaccinated in the first wave.

- Consulting and assisting the schools on the reopening plan and making sure State guidelines are being followed. District has over 20 school districts in the TAHD area along with 20 private schools.
- Notified by Department of Public Health (DPH) that we could be receiving some additional PHEP funding to help with the contact tracing and Mass Vaccinations. How much and when is yet to be determined.
- T. Stansfield education piece on WZBG

7. Program Reports

a. Environmental Health Program – Deputy Director T. Stansfield

- Staff fielding a lot of questions, Sector Rules and masking wearing top the list.
- 70 complaints that are COVID related
- Building additions 73 more in this time frame then last year at this time.
- Increase in swimming pools applications
- Septic remain the same

b. Food Protection Program – Deputy Director T. Stansfield

- 2 new Food Inspectors- certified by the State
 - John Saffiotti
 - Frank Piazza
- Food inspections – suspended during COVID – at this point will start easing back into routine food inspections. Remote inspections were done.

c. Immunization Program- Written report

d. Emergency Preparedness Program – Written report

e. Lead Poisoning Prevention Program – Written report

f. SPF-Rx, Academic Detailing, ODMAPP – Written report

8. Other Business – None currently

9. Adjournment

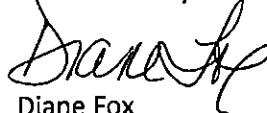
- Motion made by L.Timolat and N. Rahuba respectively to adjourn this meeting of the TAHD Board of Directors. Hearing no objections or abstentions the motion carried.

Respectively submitted



Robert Rubbo
Director of Health

Transcribed by



Diane Fox
Administrative Secretary