



**77 Main Street North, Suite 205
Southbury, CT 06488
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday 10/5/22 5:30pm
Via Google Meet**

Voting Members in Attendance

Anne Neumann (Woodbury, Board Chair)
Larry Ellis (Oxford) (Vice President)
Fred D'Amico (Oxford)
Michael Crespan (New Milford)
Dr. Paul Nee (Southbury)
Dean Sarjent (Washington)
Chris Cosgrove (New Milford)

Non Voting Members in Attendance

Lisa Michelle Morrissey (Secretary)

Staff in Attendance

Jennifer Luis (Recording)

Voting Members Not Present

Dr. Jeremy Levin (New Milford)

Regular Board of Directors: Meeting called to order 5:30pm

● **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve June 1, 2022, meeting minutes.

Made a Motion: Dean Sarjent

Second: Larry Ellis

Motion Carries

● **Chairman's Report**

Ms. Neumann stated Tony Minchella is out of the office for medical leave, and there are no updates on the lawsuits at this time.

Ms. Neumann would like to add an agenda item to new business to elect a new chairperson for the Board.

- **Directors Report**

There is a shortage across the state for sanitarians as well as public health nurses. Sanitarians are in such high demand that there are bidding wars between public health agencies to gain sanitarians.

The community health team has clinics 6 days a week offering flu and covid vaccines along with sports physicals. Ms. Morrissey also stated there is discussion on how to proceed with the Covid-19 testing this fall.

Ms. Morrissey reported that the district received the minimum Per Capita payments from the towns and was able to send the per capita grant application to the State. She also stated that she does not see Public Health or the district slowing down until at least March. Ms. Morrissey asked the board if they had any questions on the monthly report that was emailed to the board members.

Chris Cosgrove asked why during the previous month did the Town of Southbury have more food establishment inspections completed than the other towns. Ms. Morrissey stated that Southbury has the most nursing homes which are a vulnerable population for inspections, those inspections are tied to licensing requirements. Mr. Cosgrove stated that it made sense and appreciated her response.

Ms. Neumann asked how the relationships with the Towns have been regarding the clinics the district has been providing to the communities. Ms. Morrissey stated all the towns have been very positive except Southbury's First Selectman's office to which she responded the relationship remains strained.

Ms. Neumann is also concerned with the amount of work the staff has been putting in for the district. Ms. Morrissey stated she has spoken to her colleagues and unfortunately there is a staffing shortage across the state and she has the same concerns as Ms. Neumann for the staff.

Mike Crepsan asked about contracting out the food inspections for the district to help the staff. Ms. Morrissey stated we have one contractor now for \$40.00 an hour

Dean Sarjent asked if the district could double up with clinics to lighten the load. Ms. Morrissey stated with the complexity of the vaccines you can only increase the density of the clinics and the community does not want to travel to other towns to receive their vaccines. She also said the district turned down several requests from businesses to have their own personal clinics. The district can not add any more clinics to the schedule.

- **Executive Session**

Dr. Paul Nee made a motion to start the executive session.

Larry Ellis seconded the motion.

Executive session started at 5:55 pm and ended at 6:22 pm.

- **New Business**

Ms. Neumann stated that the by-laws had a 3 year term for the Board Chair and there could be a co-chair. Ms. Neumann stated she has been a Board Chair for a long time and would anyone else on the board want to be elected to Board Chair or co-chair.

Chris Cosgrove would like to keep Ms. Neumann in her leadership position as Board Chair as she has done a phenomenal job. He also understands if she turns down the position but requests at least another year. Larry Ellis agrees with Mr. Cosgrove that Ms. Neumann has done an outstanding job as board chair and requests another year. Ms. Neumann feels as of right now the Health District is in a better place.

Ms. Neumann stated she would like to give the board full disclosure that she may be traveling more with her work as her company just went global. She also offered to stay as Board Chair and keep Larry Ellis as Vice President.

Larry Ellis made the motion to nominate Anne Neumann as Board Chair for the Housatonic Valley Health District.

Dr. Paul Nee seconded the motion.

All in favor - motion carried

- **Old Business**

Ms. Morrissey gave an update on the new retirement plan for the staff. On November 25, 2022 the new plan with Voya will go live. Voya will handle all the communications to all the past employees on the Newport plan and the new employees. Ms. Neumann asked if the current plans with Newport Group still remain frozen from the state and Ms. Morrissey replied they are still frozen.

Dean Sarjent requested to go to the meeting with the staff and Voya in November. Ms. Neumann asked Mr. Sarjent to report back to the board with the information.

- **Meeting Adjournment-6:31pm**

Motion : The adjournment of the meeting.

Motion L. Ellis

Second A. Neumann

All in Favor

Motion Carries