



**77 Main Street North, Suite 205
Southbury, CT 06488
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday 1/11/23, 6:00 PM**

Voting Members in Attendance

Dean Sarjent(Washington) *via google meet*
Larry Ellis Vice Chairperson (Oxford)
Fred D'Amico (Oxford)
Michael Crespan (New Milford)
Chris Cosgrove (New Milford) *via google meet*
John Michaels (Southbury) *via google meet*

Non Voting Members in Attendance

Lisa Michelle Morrissey (Secretary)

Staff in Attendance

Jennifer Luis (Recording) *via google meet*
Joe Kmetz (Chief Sanitarian)

Voting Members Not Present

Dr. Jeremy Levin (New Milford)

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order- Vice Board Chair Larry Ellis 6:00 pm

Motion: Discuss item# 2 on Meeting Agenda first regarding appointing a new chairperson

Made a motion: Fred D'Amico

Second: Michael Crespan

All in favor

Motion Carries

Larry Ellis opened the floor for nominations:

John Michaels nominated existing vice chairperson stating continuity is important

Dean Sarjent seconded nomination

Larry Ellis nominated Fred D'Amico

Michael Crespan seconded

Nominations are closed

Discussion on nominations:

Mr. Cosgrove asked which town Mr. D'Amico represents and it was stated Oxford.

Mr. Michaels asked if Mr. D'Amico is up to speed with everything including the investigation what has been going on and Mr. Cosgrove asked how long Mr. D'Amico has been on the board.

Mr. Ellis stated Mr. D'Amico has been on the board for twenty years and has knowledge of all the district ongoings.

Mr. Sarjent thanked Mr. D'Amico for volunteering to be the chairperson and would like to hear from Mr. D'Amico.

Mr. D'Amico stated he understands the next in line would be the vice chairperson but Mr. Ellis does not want to be the chairperson at this time because he is too busy. Mr. Cosgrove said he believes Mr. D'Amico is our best option because of continuity and Larry Ellis will remain vice chair.

Motion to vote

All in favor

5 votes Fred' D'Amico

1 vote Larry Ellis

Motion carries

Meeting Agenda # 1 Proposed Budget discussion:

Mr. D'Amico presented two proposed budgets. One budget with no increase stays at a flat rate of \$10.10 per capita. Second budget has an increase of \$10.71 per Capita. The \$10.71 per Capita proposed budget gives a little more flexibility because three items went up. One was health insurance for staff, vaccine medical supplies and specimen delivery to the State lab. Mr. D'Amico stated that the increase to the \$10.71 per Capita is not a large increase to the towns as it is calculated by \$10.71 times the amount of the population. New Milford has the largest population so they would see the biggest increase to pay per capita. Mr. D'Amico proposes to approve the proposed budget with the \$10.71 per Capita and then give it to the towns as soon as possible so they can review it and give it to their finance boards to discuss. The district will then have a special meeting next month in February in case the proposed budgets need to be revised after getting feedback from the towns.

Mr. Cosgrove asked if the district kept the \$10.10 per Capita what would change from what we are doing today. Ms. Morrissey stated that if we keep the \$10.10 flat rate there would be a 30% decrease in the line item for vaccines and medical supplies which would normally be \$95,000.00 in the budget and would decrease by \$30,000.00 to keep the flat rate of \$10.10 per Capita. The line item includes vaccines for flu, shingles, t-dap and all the corresponding medical supplies.

Mr. Cosgrove asked if the health district always gave vaccines than COVID-19 and Ms. Morrissey stated yes the district has always provided vaccines for the community. If the district had to decrease the vaccine and medical supplies line item the district would have to make the decision if they would have to prioritize high dose flu vaccines and cut back on quadrivalent flu vaccines. Ms. Morrissey stated at a recent public health meeting it was stated that there could be a possibility but it is not a certainty, that there may change in allowance of use of grant monies that would allow health districts/departments to purchase vaccines.

Mr. Cosgrove asked if we did not provide vaccines and left it up to the private sector which segment of the population would it effect. Ms. Morrissey stated the district is a safety net provider for people who do not have insurance and the cost of vaccines is typically cheaper than a private sector. The district also belongs to the child vaccine program with the State and provides a lower cost of the vaccines. The senior population has always come to the district for their vaccines and have been

adamant that they do not want to go to the pharmacies to get vaccines. She also stated more and more medical providers are not providing the flu vaccines because of the low reimbursement rate.

John Michaels stated he thought in the past that most of the vaccines are covered by medicare, medicaid and private insurances and if we have costs shouldn't we have offsetting revenue in the budget. Ms. Morrissey stated that in the best case scenario the district would break even but more years than not the district has taken a loss. The reimbursement rates are going down, not going up and the district provides a community service. Mr. Michaels said he thinks we should include the break even amount on the revenue line for the vaccines. He stated there has been tremendous pressure on the government budgets due to inflation. Mr. Michaels asked if we can reconstruct the budget if the federal government lets the district redirect other grant money to pay for the vaccines and the district reserves the right to add \$0.50 to the last quarter of the fiscal year if the federal government does not show up with a reimbursement.

Ms. Morrissey stated she has not seen that done but it does not mean that it could not be done. We could not decrease the line item but we can increase. Mr. Michaels asked how much the increase would be total for the per capita. Fred D'Amico stated that Southbury would have an approximate \$12,000.00 increase. The total increase for all the per capita for the towns would be approximately \$46,000.00 with \$18,000.00 of it is the Town of New Milford's cost.

Mr. Cosgrove asked with the budget are we covered with sanitarians and Ms. Morrissey stated that the rate does not include any raises or new personnel on the general fund.

Mr. Sarjent does not advocate cutting any services. He wants to make sure the district is not subsidizing the insurance companies. Ms. Morrissey said that we do bill commercial insurance and Husky/Medicare/Medicaid. The CDC contract currently states that for the Covid-19 vaccine if someone says they can not pay for the vaccine the district can not turn them away.

Motion to approve the \$10.71 per capita proposed budget with an understanding that the district would make an appropriate adjustment to the fourth quarter per capita charge if the federal government allows the district to use/redirect other resources to pay for vaccines.

Made the motion: John Michaels

Ms. Morrissey asked how the budget would be adjusted. Mr. Michaels stated that the district would not spend the money and you would have a revenue source. The towns would give the per Capita $\frac{1}{4}$ at each quarter and at the fourth quarter we could lower the per capita payment for the towns. Ms. Morrissey stated that the towns by request, have mostly transitioned to an annual payment in July. She asked if she could check on that because typically she has to show the fully funded line item, and that she spent down the line item. She is not sure how that would work and she needs to get some clarification.

Second motion: Dean Sarjent

All in Favor

Motion carries

Meeting Adjournment - 6:35pm

Motion: Larry Ellis

Second: Chris Cosgrove

All in Favor

Motion Carries

Minutes recorded by:


Jennifer Luis