



77 Main Street North, Suite 205
Southbury, CT 06488
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting
Wednesday 11/06/2024, 5:30PM

Voting Members in Attendance

Larry Ellis (Oxford, Vice Board Chair)
Michael Crespan (New Milford)
Dr. Jermey Levin (New Milford)
Casey Flanagan (Sharon)
John Michaels (Southbury)
Jack Kelly (Southbury)
Dean Sarjeant (Washington)
Deb Fuller (Woodbury)

Non Voting Members in Attendance

Amy Bethge, MPH (Director of Health)

Voting Members Not Present

Fred D'Amico (Oxford, Board Chair)
Chris Cosgrove (New Milford)

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order- Larry Ellis – 5:30 pm

Approval of Minutes

Motion to add the approval of the 9/4/24, 9/23/24, 9/30/24, and 10/10 meeting minutes to the agenda

Mr. Michaels made a motion to add this item to the agenda

Second: Mr. Ellis

All in favor

Motion Carries

Motion to approve 9/4/24, 9/23/24, 9/30/24, 10/10/24, and 10/30/24 meeting minutes

Ms. Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes

Second: Mr. Kelly

All in favor

Motion Carries

Finance Subcommittee Report

Mr. Michaels reported that the Finance Subcommittee met with the auditor on Monday, November 4th. He noted that the financial statements were presented in draft and approved, and that HVHD is one of the first in the state to get them done. HVHD came out with a clean opinion, with no surprises and a healthy surplus. Ms. Bethge and the Finance Subcommittee are on the cusp of presenting a budget for FY 25/26.

Chairman's Report

None

Director's Report

Ms. Bethge shared that recent clusters and outbreaks of Campylobacter infections related to the consumption of raw milk have been identified in different parts of the state. These clusters and outbreaks have been attributed to raw milk produced and distributed/provided by different farms.

Campylobacteriosis is the most common bacterial foodborne infection in Connecticut. In 2023, a total of 838 cases of Campylobacter infection were reported statewide. To date in 2024, 792 cases of campylobacteriosis have been reported in the state. Interviewing reported cases to collect illness and exposure information is critical to identifying potential outbreaks. Local health (HVHD) takes the lead on interviewing reported cases for the purpose of identifying exposure sources for community members in our towns.

Ms. Bethge shared that the Department of Public Health Commissioner, Manisha Juthani, MD, confirmed the first two deaths of state residents due to influenza (flu) for the 2024-25 respiratory viral disease season. The first influenza death occurred in an adult resident, 90-99 years old, who died in September. The second influenza death was of an infant less than 1-years-old old that occurred during October.

The current vaccine and prevention guidance to prevent respiratory viral diseases is:

- Everyone 6 months of age or older should receive an annual dose of influenza vaccine.
- Everyone 6 months of age or older should receive an updated COVID-19 vaccine.
- Adults 60 years of age and older and pregnant people are eligible to receive an RSV vaccine (Abrysvo). A monoclonal antibody, Nirsevimab (Beyfortus), is recommended for all infants younger than 8 months of age who are born during—or who are entering—RSV season.
- Residents can receive their vaccines from their health care provider, a retail pharmacy, or by visiting [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a vaccination location near you.
- The spread of respiratory viruses like the flu, COVID-19, and RSV can also be prevented through proper respiratory virus etiquette. These practices include

handwashing, remaining home when sick, disinfecting surfaces, and masking if you have any respiratory symptoms.

- The Federal Government is once again offering four free COVID-19 self-tests per household at covidtests.gov. These tests are intended for use throughout the 2024 holiday season to detect currently circulating COVID-19 variants.
- More information about respiratory viral diseases is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Infectious-Diseases/RVD/Respiratory-Viral-Disease-Surveillance>

Environmental Health Update:

Ms. Bethge shared that the average turnaround time for services remains well below the 10-day goal. This data is represented in our updated Environmental Health Data Dashboard, which can be found here: <https://hvhdct.gov/environmental-health/>

In October, environmental health staff joined environmental health professionals from across the state at the Connecticut Environmental Health Association's Soils Training Workshop. The Workshop provided a great opportunity to connect with State DPH and DEEP colleagues and hone environmental skills.

In compliance with the EPA's new lead and copper regulation, Aquarion Water Company will be performing outreach to customers regarding the service lines serving their property. Letters will be sent out through November 15th to inform customers with lead, galvanized, or unknown service lines serving their property.

During this outreach customers may receive a letter with one of the three following subject lines:

1. Notice of a confirmed lead water service line: this means that Aquarion's most recent service line inventory indicates that some or all of the water service line materials between the water main and your property are lead.
2. Notice of a confirmed galvanized water service line (that is or was downstream of a lead service line): this means Aquarion's most recent service line inventory indicates that some or all of the water service materials between the water main and your property are galvanized requiring replacement material. This material is not made of lead, but may have built up lead deposits over time due to an existing or previous upstream lead service line and can be a source of lead in your drinking water.
3. Notice of unknown water service materials: this means that Aquarion's most recent service line inventory indicates that some or all of the water service line materials between the water main and your property are of unknown material classification. Unknown means that the service line may be lead.

Visit the link in the banner on HVHD's website or this link to learn more:

<https://www.aquarionwater.com/water-quality/learn-about-lead>

PFAS

Residents with concerns about their drinking water quality should reach out to HVHD by phone at 203-264-9616 or email at eht@hvhdct.gov.

To date, opportunities for residents with regard to drinking water quality have included discounted water testing events and information/resources for filtration.

Community Health Update:

Radon program

In January, HVHD will begin offering free radon test kits to community members. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

Flu Clinics

HVHD administered 1298 flu shots this season, with only one clinic remaining

Administrative/Communications Update:

HVHD's November newsletter will be distributed tomorrow. Several towns have agreed to share HVHD's newsletter with their town-wide listservs. We appreciate the support and welcome opportunities to partner with all towns to distribute the newsletter!

We are delaying the launch of our property record digital platform to December to allow for the addition of internal workflows that will further streamline the work of the administrative and environmental health teams. Stay tuned for an updated launch date. Dr. Levin and Ms. Fuller volunteered to be a part of the beta testing process.

Old Business

None

New Business

Holiday Schedule

Ms. Fuller made a motion to approve HVHD's holiday schedule as proposed

Second: Mr. Kelly

All in favor

Motion carries

HVHD Board Meeting Schedule for the 2025 calendar year

Mr. Sarjent made a motion to approve HVHD's bi-monthly board meeting schedule for the 2025 calendar year

Second: Ms. Fuller

All in favor

Motion carries

Mr. Michaels made a motion to add discussion and potential action regarding the change in position status from part time to full time to the agenda

Second: Mr. Ellis

All in favor

Motion Carries

Change in Position Status

Ms. Bethge requested the Board's approval for a position status change for a current employee from part time to full time. Responsibilities of this position would be the internal implementation of square nine, data analysis and dissemination, coordination of activities with community-based organizations, and community programming. Ms. Bethge stated that the position status would only be changed from part time to full time if she were able to guarantee that the addition of this item in the budget would not change the per capita for this year, and that a consistent per capita would be possible for FY 25/26.

Mr. Michaels shared that according to the auditor, a budget adjustment would need to be made for the change in status of this position if approved by the Board, and that this adjustment would be shared with the towns once made.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to authorize a budget adjustment of an additional \$70,000 in wages and benefits and \$70,000 in revenues to support a January 1st position change from part time to full time

Second: Mr. Crespan

All in favor

Motion carries

Meeting Adjournment – 6:35pm

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Kelly

Second: Ms. Fuller

All in favor

Motion Carries

Recorded by:



Amy Bethge