



77 Main Street North, Suite 205  
Southbury, CT 06488  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday 1/08/2025, 5:30PM**

**Voting Members in Attendance**

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

**Non Voting in Attendance**

Amy Bethge, MPH (Director of Health)  
Tony Minchella, Esq

**Voting Members Not Present**

Fred D'Amico (Oxford, Board Chair)

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order- Larry Ellis – 5:31 pm

**Approval of Minutes**

***Motion to approve 11/6/24 meeting minutes***

***Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes***

***Second: Mr. Michaels***

***All in favor***

***Motion Carries***

***Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss Lustig vs Health District and SDV Law & Philadelphia Insurance***

***Mr. Ellis made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss Lustig vs Health District and SDV Law & Philadelphia Insurance***

***Second: Mr. Kelly***

***All in favor***

***Motion Carries***

**Entered Executive Session: 5:33pm**

- **Discussion: Lustig vs Health District and SDV & Philadelphia Insurance**

**Left Executive Session: 5:59pm**

**Finance Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Michaels reported that the Finance Subcommittee met regarding the FY 25/26 budget and that Ms. Bethge would present the budget to the Board during tonight's meeting. Mr. Michaels also shared that the Subcommittee has been receiving monthly financial reports on a very timely basis and that all is as anticipated.

**Chairman's Report**

None

**Director's Report**

Ms. Bethge shared that the first death from H5N1 has been reported by the CDC, with 66 total reported human cases throughout the United States. To date, there have been no human cases reported in this part of the country. Sources of exposure have been predominately attributed to commercially owned cattle and poultry. There have however been wild bird detections, including one in Vermont.

The USDA is now requiring milk testing. It is anticipated that the Department of Agriculture in CT will stand this initiative up in our state over the next few weeks.

She shared that current risk to public health remains low. If domestic animals are observed to be sick, this information should be reported to the Department of Agriculture. If wild animals are observed to be dead, this information should be reported to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Ms. Bethge shared data regarding respiratory virus disease surveillance, noting that both influenza and RSV rates had continued to increase as of the beginning of December, while rates of COVID had remained fairly constant as of October. She encouraged residents who have not yet gotten vaccinated to get vaccinated and shared that although HVHD's flu clinics have ended, community members could still obtain a flu vaccine by calling HVHD or scheduling an appointment online: <https://hvhdct.gov/>.

**Environmental Health Update:**

Ms. Bethge shared that starting on January 1st, HVHD reduced their average turnaround time goal from 10 days to 7 days. For FY 24/25, average turnaround time for most activities is under 5 days, and turnaround time for all activities is under 6 days. The updated

Environmental Health dashboard can be found on HVHD's website:

<https://hvhdct.gov/environmental-health/>.

Ms. Bethge discussed sodium chloride runoff reporting. Mr. Kelly inquired about new regulations regarding water softener discharge into separate leaching fields prior to the sale of a home.

### **Community Health Update:**

Ms. Bethge shared that for the month of January, HVHD's campaigns will focus on carbon monoxide and radon. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas which can be deadly. CO is produced from the incomplete burning of fuels. Sources include: gas and oil furnaces; wood, kerosene, and pellet stoves; charcoal and gas grills; portable generators; automobile exhaust; and unvented fireplaces. Initial symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, nausea, and fatigue.

CO poisoning is more likely to occur during the winter months, due in part to furnaces and other heat producing equipment, generators (in or too near homes), turkey fryers (within enclosed spaces), automobile exhaust (in garages). In Connecticut during 2023, there were 126 ED visits and 17 hospitalizations. Between 2019-2023, 7 unintentional CO poisoning fatalities were recorded.

Measures to prevent against CO poisoning include:

- Install CO detectors on every floor and near sleeping areas
- Do NOT use the following inside (home, basement, garage): generators, grills, non-electric heating units (i.e. kerosene heaters), or camp stoves
- Do NOT use a gas oven to heat the home
- Use gasoline-powered engines at least 20 feet away from any window, door, or vent
- If CO poisoning is suspected, individuals should first leave the home, then call 911

Ms. Bethge additionally shared that HVHD's Radon Awareness Campaign launched this month. Educational information regarding radon is being pushed out on our website and social media platforms. Free radon test kits are available to residents so that they can test the radon levels in their homes. Regularly scheduled educational programming throughout the district will focus on radon, which has been well received to date.

She shared that falls are the second leading cause of unintentional injury deaths worldwide. Adults over the age of 60 suffer the greatest number of falls. Data from the CDC shows that older adult falls cost the US healthcare system approximately \$50 billion annually. HVHD is in the process of piloting a falls prevention program, to include home visits for those with history of lift assist. Data will be forthcoming.

Educational letters were sent to daycare owners operating in buildings constructed pre-1978 regarding their statutory requirements associated with lead poisoning prevention, and educational materials ensuring that they are aware of the associated risks of lead poisoning.

HVHD's [January newsletter](#) focused on radon awareness and prevention. In addition to promoting our free radon kit testing program, the newsletter also included information regarding radon risk zones, an indoor radon potential map, links to radon resources, and information regarding our programs and services for the month of January.

### **Administrative/Communications Update:**

Ms. Bethge shared that HVHD is currently in the beta testing phase of platform development for property record digitization and that she looks forward to going live with the fully developed platform once final feedback is received.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Budget FY 25/26**

Ms. Bethge indicated that she shared the FY 25/26 budget, budget memo, and capital asset plan with the Board the week prior to the January meeting. The budget memo provides a high-level overview of each of the significant line item changes from the previous fiscal year's budget. She indicated that the per capita would remain unchanged for FY 25/26.

***Motion that use of the contingency line item over \$1,000 be reported to the Finance Subcommittee prior to use***

***Mr. Michaels made a motion that use of the contingency line item over \$1,000 be reported by the Director to the Finance Subcommittee prior to being expended***

***Second: Ms. Fuller***

***All in favor***

***Motion Carries***

Mr. Michaels discussed the capital plan for FY 25/26.

***Motion to approve the FY 25/26 budget and capital plan to be sent to the towns for review and move to public hearing***

***Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the FY 25/26 budget and capital plan to be sent to the towns for review and move to public hearing***

***Second: Mr. Ellis***

***Abstention: Mr. Sarjeant***

***Motion carries***

***Motion to add a vote regarding setting a date for the public hearing to the agenda***

***Mr. Michaels made a motion to add a vote to set the date for a public hearing on the budget to the agenda***

**Second: Ms. Fuller**  
**All in favor**  
**Motion Carries**

**Motion to hold a public hearing regarding the budget on February 5th at 5:30**  
**Ms. Fuller made a motion to hold a public hearing regarding the budget on February 5th at 5:30**  
**Second: Mr. Ellis**  
**All in favor**  
**Motion Carries**

**Meeting Adjournment – 6:53pm**  
**Motion to adjourn: Mr. Cosgrove**  
**Second: Ms. Fuller**  
**All in favor**  
**Motion Carries**

Recorded by:

*Amy Bethge*

Amy Bethge