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DIRECTOR of HEALTH
Russell Melmed, MPH

Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, & Portland

Chatham Health District Board of Health, February Regular Meeting

Time: February 22, 2022 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Meeting ID 864 4334 4084

Present: Andrew Tierney Dave Cox Ryan Curley
 Stan Soby Rosemary Coyle Peter Hughes
 Kate Morris Irene Haines (arrived 2:38)

Others: Russell Melmed

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tierney called this meeting to order at 2:09pm.

Motion was made by Ms. Coyle, seconded by Mr. Curley, to recess the meeting to move into the Public Hearing. Vote was unanimous in favor. The regular meeting recessed at 2:10pm. The regular meeting reconvened at 2:27pm.

2. Additions to the agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Public Remarks

There were no public comments.

4. Recess to Public Hearing on FY2023 Budget

Previously recessed and reconvened.

5. New Business

a. Action on proposed FY2023 Budget

Motion was made by Mr. Coyle, seconded by Ms. Morris, to approve the FY2023 Chatham Health District Budget as presented from the Public Hearing. Vote was unanimous in favor.

b. Approval of Minutes from 1/15/2022

Motion was made by Mr. Soby, seconded by Mr. Cox, to approve the minutes of 1/25/2022 as written. Vote was unanimous in favor.

c. Approval of minutes from 2/1/2022

Motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Soby, to approve the minutes of 2/1/2022 as written. Vote was unanimous in favor.

6. Communications

Mr. Melmed noted that award of the following FDA grants:

- Staffing Development and Training, \$7500
- Capacity Building, \$284,730, 3-year
- NEHA FDA Base, \$166,277, 3-year
- NACCHO Mentorship, \$23,785 (this grant was included in preparing the 2023 budget)

7. Director's Report and discussion

a. COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update

Mr. Melmed stated that there is continued improvement and decline in positive cases. February 28th the requirement for masks in schools expires. Mr. Melmed stated that some schools have already made the decision to go "mask optional" and anticipates all schools will. Brief discussion was held regarding mask wearing in the under school-age population.

b. PPE supply inventory

Mr. Melmed noted that in the beginning of the pandemic we distributed our supply of PPE to EMS, long term care, etc. Mr. Melmed stated that we were able to replenish our PPE supply through the state warehouse in New Britain, at no cost.

c. Environmental Health

Mr. Melmed stated that the land use side of Environmental Health has slowed a bit allowing sanitarians to "catch up" in over areas; food service, salons, etc. Food service establishment renewals were all due by February 15th. Any establishment that has failed to renew is subject to a late fee of 50% of their annual fee and possible closure if not addressed.

Mr. Melmed noted that there was a large oil spill inside the basement of Bacon Academy, approximately 2000 gallons of oil. Oil did flow into the floor drains and was discharged outside of the building. The school was closed for three days while clean-up was conducted. Environmental staff did outreach to homeowners in the area offering testing of private wells. DEEP is monitoring the environmental cleanup.

d. Community Health

Mr. Melmed state that vaccine outreach continues and Diabetes Self-Management programs are being held virtually. Testing also continues to be available.

e. Staffing

Mr. Melmed stated that we were going to hire new contact tracers but due to the decline in contact tracing we have instead shifted existing staff that are funded through grants to vaccine outreach. Mr. Melmed stated that the new FDA grant includes the hiring of a new Part-time Food Inspector.

f. Budget and Grants

Mr. Melmed stated that the budget is in good shape. The newly awarded grants will go to offset some of the current fiscal year core expenses and will continue into the next several years.

9. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

10. Adjournment

Following no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Ms. Morris, to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:57pm.