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DIRECTOR of HEALTH
Russell Melmed, MPH

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

Chatham Health District Board of Health

Time: January 25, 2022 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Meeting ID 81048769298

Present: Andrew Tierney Dave Cox Ryan Curley
Stan Soby Rosemary Coyle Irene Haines (arrived 2:07)
Peter Hughes (arrived 2:08)

Others: Russell Melmed

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tierney called this meeting to order at 2:02pm.

2. Additions to the agenda

Motion was made by Mr. Cox to reorganize the agenda, to include the consideration of the minutes of October 12, 2021 and October 26, 2021 and to move the item of New Business to follow Communications. Motion was seconded by Mr. Curley. Vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Public Remarks

There were no public comments.

4. Communications

Mr. Melmed read into the record a letter from Dave Erlandson, installer of the enormous septic system project at Getaway Machimoodus, "acknowledging the exceptional staff of Chatham Health". *Ms. Haines arrived at 2:07pm. Mr. Hughes arrived at 2:08pm.* Members of the Board echoed Mr. Erlandson's praises of the staff and will draft official documentation to them.

5. Approval of Minutes from 12/14/21 (adding 10/12/21 and 10/26/21)

Motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Soby, to approve of minutes of 10/12/21. Vote was unanimous in favor with Mr. Soby, Ms. Coyle, Mr. Curley, and Ms. Haines abstaining.

Motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Ms. Coyle, to approve the minutes of 10/26/21. Vote was unanimous in favor with Ms. Haines and Mr. Curley abstaining.

Motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Ms. Haines, to approve the minutes of 12/4/21. Vote was unanimous in favor, with Ms. Coyle abstaining.

6. New Business-Establishment of Juneteenth as an official holiday

Mr. Melmed recommended establishing Juneteenth as an official Chatham Health holiday. Following discussion and clarification that the State of Connecticut has not yet officially designated this holiday, this item will be reconsidered at a later time.

7. Director's Report and discussion

a. COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update

Mr. Melmed stated that staff continues to spend a lot of time providing COVID guidance to businesses, residents, municipal departments, etc. Mr. Melmed stated that since the last Board meeting we went through with worst time in terms of reported case numbers. For every reported case of COVID-19, there are most like three unreported cases. At-home kits have become more accessible.

b. Environmental Health

Discussed later.

c. Community Health

Not discussed.

d. Staffing

Mr. Melmed stated that we were going to hire two new staff to help with contact tracing under the ELC 2 grant. However, we are shifting our two staff we had with VEPF funding into these positions.

e. Budget and Grants

Mr. Melmed stated that we are in the process of writing a grant and are waiting to hear on two others. These funds would be for COVID-19 response and food protection program.

Mr. Melmed stated that environmental health has slowed on the land use side; sanitarians are catching up on permits to discharge, salon inspections, and food service.

Mr. Melmed stated that community health is scheduling and conducting chronic disease management programs under the Block Grant. These programs are currently run virtually due to COVID-19. Vaccination clinics are still be conducted throughout the District, one to two per week.

Mr. Melmed stated that the Budget Committee will be meeting after this meeting to discuss the draft 2023 budget. Should the Budget Committee decide to send the draft budget to the full Board, Mr. Melmed anticipates scheduling a special meeting accept the budget and schedule a public hearing. Mr. Melmed noted that the District needs to provide member towns a per capita rate by March 1st.

9. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

10. Adjournment

Following no further business to discuss, motion was made by Ms. Haines, seconded by Ms. Coyle, to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:33pm.