

BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Hughes, Vice Chairman
Andrew Tierney, Treasurer
Susan Bransfield
Rosemary Coyle
Michael Maniscalco
Lizz Milardo
Kate Morris
Stan Soby
Mark Walter



DIRECTOR of HEALTH
Don Mitchell, MPH RS

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

Board of Health

December 15, 2015

1:00pm

Colchester Town Hall 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester

Present: Peter Hughes Andrew Tierney Michael Maniscalco
Kate Morris Susan Bransfield Rosemary Coyle
Mark Walter Stan Soby Lizz Milardo

Others: Don Mitchell Thad King (departed at 2:05)

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

2. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matter regarding Thad King, Director of Health
Motion was made by Mr. Tierney, seconded by Mr. Soby, to enter into Executive Session at 1:00pm. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Executive Session ended at 1:50pm.

3. Potential Action regarding Thad King, Director of Health
Motion was made by Mr. Soby, seconded by Mr. Maniscalco, to except the resignation of Thad King. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Motion was made by Mr. Maniscalco, seconded by Mr. Tierney, to put Thad King on immediate paid leave until December 18, 2015. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Vice Chairman Hughes thanked Mr. King for his service.

4. Potential Action regarding Director of Health Position
Motion was made by Mr. Soby, seconded by Mr. Tierney, to appoint Don Mitchell as Acting Director of Health for a 60 day period. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Motion was made by Mr. Tierney, seconded by Ms. Morris, to adjust Mr. Mitchell's salary to that of the current Director of Health. Vote was unanimous in favor.

5. District Membership

In preparation for the upcoming budget year, Vice Chairman Hughes asked all Board members if any towns were considering leaving the District. Ms. Milardo stated that Haddam was.

6. Approval of Minutes – November 17, 2015

Due to the minutes not being distributed motion was made by Ms. Morris, seconded by Mr. Tierney, to table approval until the next meeting. Vote was unanimous in favor.

7. Public Remarks

Kitch Breen Czernicki, 513 Main Street Portland, expressed concern for the lack of posting of minutes and agendas to the District website, dissatisfaction with the Board accepting the resignation with pay, and disappointment with the Board for being made aware of allegations against Mr. King back in May but the public was not made aware. Ms. Czernicki also expressed concern for the withholding and possible loss of grant funds due to the District.

Melissa Schlag, Haddam, thanked Thad King for all his work as well as the Board. Ms. Schlag stated that the Board has worked very hard since May. Ms. Schlag also stated that this was a personnel issue and it does get handled in executive session.

8. Communications

Tabled to the next meeting.

9. Director of Health Report
Interim Budget Report

Vice Chairman Hughes stated that he would be hand delivering the Per Capita Grant application to DPH Thursday, December 17th, at which time DPH stated they will release half of the funds. Vice Chairman Hughes also stated that DPH is also in the process of releasing funds from the Block Grant, Lead Grant, and Emergency Preparedness Grant.

10. Committee Reports

Nothing to report.

11. 2016 Meeting Dates

12. Proposed Budget Discussion – Public Hearing Date

Mr. King had sent the Board two budget proposals, one with a 2% increase and the other with a 5% increase. Mr. Hughes stated that if Haddam does choose to leave the District the per capita will then increase from \$9.65 to \$11.25, a 20% increase. Ms. Milardo stated that Haddam residents have expressed to her that they have not been happy with the services provided to them by the District for a very long time. A town meeting is required in order to withdrawal from the District by December 31st. If the meeting is not held by that time, Haddam would then be obligated to stay for another 18 months. A town meeting is scheduled for December 23rd. Brief discussion was held regarding the complaints from residents; variations of code interpretation, rudeness, food inspections, lack of callbacks. Mr. Mitchell noted that many times residents and business owners are not used to regulatory requirements when coming into a health district. It was suggested by members of the Board that Mr. Mitchell perhaps attend the town meeting to answer questions. Ms. Milardo stated that would prefer to have a meeting with Mr. Mitchell prior to the meeting.

The following is a breakout of the towns per capita as proposed in the 2016-17 budget and if Haddam were to withdraw:

Town:	Proposed:	Without Haddam:
Colchester	\$156,253	\$183,000
East Haddam	\$ 88,760	\$103,000
East Hampton	\$124,234	\$145,000

Hebron	\$ 80,413	\$108,000
Marlborough	\$ 62,050	\$ 72,337
Portland	\$ 91,135	\$106,500

These proposed numbers for Without Haddam would be to cover the town per capita as well as the state per capita cut and maintaining current staffing levels. Discussion was held regarding revisiting the budget with one less town and for adjusting the staffing level for the population to be served. Vice Chairman Hughes noted that the District is currently understaffed. Brief discussion was held questioning advantages to being in the District as opposed to hiring a Sanitarian. Mr. Mitchell stated that being in the District provides for a full time Health Director as well as other specialized skill sets, such as emergency preparedness and public health nursing.

Ms. Bransfield voiced concern for the District and the relationship with the State Health Department and its effect on regionalization. Ms. Bransfield would like an analysis of the situation and is unclear of the abilities and inabilities of the State. Ms. Bransfield questioned the states responsibilities in identifying the questionable activity sooner. Ms. Bransfield also questioned regional health district compliance, how is the District complying and how is the State Health Department complying. Ms. Bransfield reiterated that this request for guidance to the State Health Department is to strengthen and help the Board to understand both agencies responsibilities and roles.

Mr. Maniscalco will plan a budget committee meeting to review the proposed budget. It was requested that if anyone had recommendations, to forward them to the committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Soby, seconded by Ms. Coyle, to set a Public Hearing for January 26, 2016 at 1pm (location to be determined, likely to be the Portland Library) for the consideration of the 2016-2017 Proposed Chatham Health District Budget. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Vice Chairman Hughes suggested holding a Special Meeting the week of January 11th just to discuss any changes to the proposed budget following the budget committee meeting. To be determined.

13. Proposed By-laws Revision – Public Hearing Date

Motion was made by Mr. Maniscalco, seconded by Mr. Tierney, to set a Public Hearing for January 26, 2016 at 1pm (location to be determined, likely to be the Portland Library) for the consideration of the Proposed By-laws Revision. Following a brief discussion regarding the clarity of the current by-laws wording, consensus of the Board was to for the item to be tabled and removed from the agenda.

14. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

15. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

16. Adjournment

Following no further business motion was made by Ms. Coyle, seconded by Mr. Maniscalco, to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.