MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
March 27, 2017

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Mark Armstrong; Kurt Schaffir; Julia Chiappetta; Caroline C. Baisley, Director

Absent: Dr. Andrew Bronin; Vick Sandhu, Esq.

Guests: Daniel Warzoha, Emergency Management Director; Charlee Tufts, GEMS Executive Director; Tracy Schietinger, GEMS Executive Director; John Strong, GEMS Financial Officer

Staff: Debora Edwards; Joanna Lipson; Deborah Travers; Carol Dixon

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 27, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.
(Motion: Ross Cahn / Second: Chiappetta / Vote: 3 in favor - 0 opposed – 2 abstentions
[Dr. Armstrong and Mr. Schaffir were not at the meeting])

Introduction of Department’s newly appointed Business Office Manager

Chairman welcomed Debora Edwards, the newly-appointed Business Office Manager. Debora stated that she holds a degree in accounting and business management. She has experience in medical billing, which she obtained in her previous job working for a group of physicians. She thanked the Director of Health for giving her the opportunity to join the Department and is confident that she is the right person for the position. Chairman thanked Debora for attending the meeting and looks forward to working with her.
Local Emergency Management Update

Dan Warzoha reported that the recent snow storm did not amount to what was predicted, but the Governor did declare a Civil Preparedness Emergency and Greenwich opened the Emergency Operations Center. The Emergency Operations Center was partially staffed with the essential Town departments, along with utility representation. The longest power outage in Greenwich during the storm lasted 5 hours and 25 minutes.

Mr. Warzoha has been following the federal grants program very closely as a result of the administration change in Washington. Time schedules for submission of funding applications have shortened considerably – from 2 months to 3 weeks. Mr. Warzoha will be presenting a request to the Board of Selectmen to initiate accepting grants for the 2016 Emergency Grant Performance Program, however the State of Connecticut has not yet distributed grant money it has received from the Federal Government for fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Mr. Warzoha reported that the schools have become very aggressive in their emergency lockdown drills and fire drill programs. They have run drills in almost the entire school system, with notifications going out via the “Alert us” system. Chairman thanked Mr. Warzoha for attending.

GEMS Quarterly Report

Chairman welcomed Tracy Schietinger, newly-appointed Executive Director of GEMS and John Strong then offered the financial report.

As of January 31, 2017, total revenues and total expenses were positive and where they should be for this time of year. The one hundred codes, which include staff and training salaries, are within budget. Several of the service codes have experienced additional unforeseen expenses (ex: Funds spent to do a national search for an Executive Director) that have resulted in an over-budget variance. The supply and material codes are well within budget, along with expenses for maintenance, insurance and employee benefits. Overall, the operating expense for the third quarter was less than budgeted.

Contributions from donors restricted for capital purchases totaled $347K by the end of the third quarter.

Patient care service revenue for the nine months was positive and over the projected budget. Deferred revenue in the liability section reflects income as earned per contractual agreement.

Workers Comp indicated the largest variance in funds in the positive direction.

Ms. Schietinger reported on response times for the months of November and December, 2016 and January, 2017. The Executive Director stated that the calls were impacted by several factors including weather conditions, heavy traffic congestion, multiple units being dispatched at the same time and/or responding from a shifting location and responses being downgraded to “normal travel.”
In the month of January 2017, transport calls were slightly over budget. The total calls for GEMS during the first three fiscal quarters (ending January 31, 2017) exceeded budget and were consistent with prior fiscal year 2016 budget.

The Chairman once again thanked Charlee Tufts for her exemplary service. Ms. Tufts will be leaving GEMS at the end of the month to join her family. Ms. Tufts said that working for GEMS was a wonderful experience and that she has many fond memories. She thanked the Board for all of their support over the years.

**Public Health Emergency Preparedness Update**

Joanna Lipson reported that in the US Territories there have been 38,212 reported Zika cases as of March 22, 2017. In the US states, 5,158 cases were reported in the same time frame. In Connecticut there have been 112 positive results for Zika Virus, with 6 pregnant patients testing positive.

On March 5, 2017, the USDA confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H7N9 in a commercial poultry flock along the Mississippi Flyway. Two years ago HPAI H5N2 caused almost 50 million poultry deaths in 15 US states. This year Europe has had one of the most active avian flu seasons in history, with hundreds of poultry farms affected and wild birds dying from highly pathogenic strains (H5N8).

Ms. Lipson will be attending the 2017 MRC Leadership Summit/Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta in April.

**Drought Update**

Caroline Baisley reported that on March 9, 2017 the Board of Selectmen adopted new water restrictions that focus on restricting water use for outdoor irrigation. These restrictions are in keeping with the Emergency Water Supply Order recently issued by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and recognize that reservoir levels are improving but are still below average. The new restrictions ban the use of automatic irrigation and sprinkler irrigation systems. Golf courses are banned from watering fairways, but may water tees and greens. Much discussion ensued regarding ways to help residents reduce overall water use by 20%, and concern regarding usage increases as we approach spring and summer months.

**Other Business**

Ms. Baisley advised the Board members that she had attended the public hearing on Tuesday, March 7 regarding the Governor’s proposal to integrate local Municipal Health Departments and Health Districts into Regional Health Districts. The Bill (7077) did not meet with much support and did not get out of Committee.

The Chairman reported that the BET approved the Department’s budget.

The Chairman also reported that the Director continues to work with the Law Department on a written Freedom of Information policy. He also indicated that the *Greenwich Time* made a recent request for information relating to
restaurant inspections.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Armstrong moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:59 PM. (Motion: Armstrong/ Second: Schaffir /Vote: Unanimous - 5 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Robert F. Carangelo
Chairman, Board of Health