

# Minutes

## Board of Health Minutes

March 28, 2022 via ZOOM

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq., Chairman; Anne Fountain; Dr. Danielle Goodwin, DDS; Dr. Sarah Gamble; Lauren O’Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC; Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus

Staff: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health; Debora Edwards, Operations Administrator; Michael Long, Director of Environmental Health

Presenters: Tom Miserendino, Greenwich Emergency Medical Services (GEMS) Director of Finance; Tracy Schietinger, GEMS Executive Director; Michael Long, Director of Environmental Health; Caroline C. Baisley, Director of Health

The ZOOM Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Robert Carangelo, Esq. at 6:33 pm

### Minutes

The minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting were presented. No edits were requested. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted were approved and accepted. **(Motion: O’Keefe / Second: Gamble/ Vote: 5 in favor -0 opposed-2 abstention)**

### GEMS 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report:

#### Financial Report: GEMS Director of Finance, Tom Miserendino:

- Year to date change in net operating assets is a positive \$581,000, which is \$135,000 higher than prior year to date.
- Year to date revenue is \$5.9 million, which is \$404,000 ahead of budget and \$314,000 higher than prior year to date.
- Patient revenue is \$316,000 ahead of budget due to higher than planned call volume (3,046 transports vs. 2,898 planned transports).
- Standby revenue is \$51,000, which higher than prior year to date of \$12,000.
- Operating expenses of \$5.3 million are \$177,000 under budget.
- Cash collection is \$1.65 million, higher than prior year to date, which is an increase of 18%

#### Operations: GEMS Executive Director, Tracy Schietinger:

- GEMS currently working on State and Federal level to increase reimbursements. Medicare wants to reduce the amount by 2%. Working at the federal level through some agencies to extend the Cares Act another five years.
- In June the State of Connecticut added the “treat no transport” reimbursement. GEMS is now able to bill but must meet certain criteria. Medicare reimbursement for this service is about \$80 and private insurance reimbursement is about \$220.
- GEMS currently interviewing to fill the position of Emergency Management Coordinator. This position will be a GEMS employee that the Town funds under a separate contract.
- Currently Station four is being built. Due to the weather progress has been slow.
- Two upcoming events for GEMS; a fund-raising Gala and a kid’s triathlon.

**Environmental Health Update: Michael Long, Director of Environmental Health:**

- Environmental Health has improved customer services over the years. The Division implemented a few processes to improve customer services, which include:
  1. Implemented change in office hours to be the same as wetlands offices, planning and zoning and other land use agencies to help assist residents in the permitting process to get sign offs for each of these departments.
  2. A staff member is now located at the front desk to be readily accessible to assist the public.
  3. The Division’s filing system was realigned making it easier to retrieve septic and well files.
  4. Online ability for residents to request septic and well files. Online requests enable the staff to respond relatively quickly. During COVID many residents took advantage of this system. With the opening of Town Hall, the system is still being used but not as much.
  5. Enhancements on the Town’s website to let residents choose particular types of building permits and instructs them what they will need from each department.
- The Division had to concentrate on contact tracing especially in December 2021, and January 2022 forcing some environmental services to be put on hold.
- Database “Municipality” has been a struggle for the staff to work with because it is not a friendly system and the company has a high turnover of employees; which makes it difficult for the staff to resolve issues with the vendor. But the Division is making progress.
- Currently working with the Town to make the Division’s inspection program digitalized. Changing the inspections process from paper to electronic inspections will make the process more efficient.
- Division’s goal this year is to inspect restaurants three times this year, since one quarter this year the staff had to work on COVID-19 pandemic operations and could not do inspections.

**COVID-19 Update: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health:**

- COVID-19 cases are declining in the United State along with hospitalizations and deaths. However, the majority of the public thinks the pandemic is over. COVID-19 cases surges are being seen in Europe, China, Scotland, UK. From past experiences the surge is heading towards the United States with an Omicron sub-variant (BA.2).
- At this time there are 60 (sixty) to 70 (seventy) cases per week in Greenwich.
- With the new variant Omicron BA.2, this sub-variant is highly transmissible. It is more contagious than Omicron BA.1, and both are less severe than the Delta variant.
- Comparing the last 3 years at the same time period March 2020 there were 182,000 cases, 2021 there were 1.8 million cases, and for 2022 there is about 3.1 million.
- Pfizer and Moderna has asked the FDA to approve a second booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine for adults over 50 years of age.
- Currently the Health Department is waiting on a second COVID-19 grant. Application was submitted, but the processing of the grant by the state is behind schedule.

**Motion to adjourn requested at 7:19 pm by Robert Carangelo, Esq. (Motion: O’Keefe / Second: Fountain)**

Minutes prepared by, Debora Edwards, Operations Administrator

Respectfully reviewed and submitted by Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus, Secretary 4/1/22