MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
September 26, 2017

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Andrew Bronin; Vick Sandhu, Esq.; Kurt Schaffer; Julia Chiappetta; Dr. Mark Armstrong; Caroline C. Baisley, Director

Guests: Tracy Schietinger, GEMS Executive Director; John Strong, GEMS Financial Officer

Staff: Deborah Travers; Carol Dixon; Joanna Lipson

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion: Bronin / Second: Chiappetta / Vote: 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

Chairman reported that Mr. Dan Warzoha was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency. He also referenced a Greenwich Time article on a tabletop exercise that took place involving first responders. He expressed disappointment that the health department was not invited to this training event. Chairman noted that Mr. Warzoha will be asked to attend another Board meeting in the near future.

GEMS Quarterly Report

Chairman invited John Strong to present the GEMS quarterly financial report.

Mr. Strong offered the following:
- In comparatives from July 2016 and July 2107 there are no radical variances in assets, liabilities and accounts payables.
- Analysis of the “Unrestricted” fund shows variances from actual to budget, which are mostly positive with the exception of standby income showing small decline.
- Life support services category shows positive variances against budget.
- Analysis of personal and functional actual expenses show positive variance as compared to the budget amount.
- There are no significant changes in major receivables analysis. The net collection percentage is 83% compared to 73% last year.
- There was no change in position listing and of note is the use of part-time personnel in efforts to reduce the cost of benefits.
Dr. Cahn inquired whether the GEMS administration anticipates any difficulties while presenting the next budget to the RTM. Ms. Schietinger stated that difficulties are always expected, however GEMS is committed to be transparent and visible throughout Greenwich in hopes to gain support from the community.

Ms. Chiappetta noted that she witnessed one of GEMS responses that morning and commended them on their efficiency and professionalism.

Ms. Schietinger reported on GEMS response to a recent call involving CO poisoning. Mr. Sandhu inquired whether GEMS responders were aware they were entering high Carbon Monoxide environment during their response and whether they had protective masks available. Ms. Schietinger stated that GEMS responders wear personal Carbon Monoxide detectors and that the EMS do not normally use masks similar of those of the Fire Department responders and that they could use oxygen masks if needed.

Ms. Schietinger also reported on a Mass Causality Event in Greenwich, which involved a U-Haul truck and a transit bus. She stated that eleven patients were transported to the hospital and no serious injuries were reported. The entire call lasted 22 minutes and involved mutual aid from Stamford.

Ms. Schietinger reported on GEMS’ receipt of a “new ambulance”, which was a remount. Not purchasing a brand new ambulance saved the agency between 50 and 60 thousand dollars.

Ms. Schietinger reported further that the Explorer program has gained much popularity and now includes 60 members from both public and private schools. In addition, GEMS provided CPR training to 150 staff members from the Greenwich Country Day school in one day, which was a logistical feat and a huge success.

Lastly, Ms. Schietinger noted that the GEMS senior management is fairly new, however in her opinion, the management transition has gone as smoothly as can be expected.

**Budget**

Dr. Cahn agreed to chair the Board’s budget overview committee this year, which will also include Dr. Bronin and the Chairman. The committee will work with the Director to arrange dates and times they can meet.

**FOIA Policy**

Chairman reported on the completion of the draft FOIA policy revision for the public, which will be submitted by the Director to the Town’s Law Department for review.

**Update on Water Issues**

The Director reported on the current state of Greenwich’s reservoir capacity and conservation efforts. Greenwich reservoirs are currently at 65.8% as of 9/11/17. The State reservoir average is 87.2% for this time of the year and the monthly historical average for State reservoirs is 82.9%. Overall, with the restrictions that were instituted in April 2017, the Town was able to conserve an average of 5
million gallons a day. Ms. Baisley reported that most Greenwich citizens are complying with the restrictions, however there are violators. She also stressed that the restrictions need to continue and that the Town is working closely with the Aquarion Water Company on the conservation efforts and public information. Ms. Baisley also informed the Board that the Connecticut Department of Public Health recently released the Connecticut State Water Plan Final Draft for comments and that the State encourages all municipalities to have water conservation plans and ordinances. Ms. Baisley noted that the support from the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen was crucial in maintaining the water restrictions in Town. She also informed the Board that she personally reviews all irrigation wells permit requests that come to the Division of Environmental Services.

Discussion ensued about the need for a long term water conservation plan and a water conservation ordinance.

Other Business

Ms. Chiappetta handed out articles / documents related to diesel fuel, idling vehicles and potential health effects of inhaling those fumes.

The Chairman announce that he would like to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. (7:30 PM)

The Chairman announced that the Executive Session was concluded. (8:00 PM)

There being no further business, Dr. Bronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

(Motion: Bronin/ Second: Chappetta /Vote: Unanimous - 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bronin, M.D.
Secretary