

DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

September 29, 2020

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

Present : Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Sarah Gamble; Dr. Andrew Bronin, Lauren O’Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC; Vick Sandhu, Esq.; PA-C[,MPH] Maryann Ramos; Ann Fountain

Guests: Tracy Schietinger, GEMS Executive Director; Tom Miserendino, GEMS Director of Finance; Nancy Duffy

Staff: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health; Joanna Lipson, Operations Administrator; Deborah Travers, Director of Family Health

Chairman called the meeting to order at 06:33 PM

Chairman welcomed the new Members of the Board, Dr. Sarah Gamble and Mrs. Ann Fountain. He thanked the outgoing member of the Board, Dr. Marilyn Ross-Cahn for her outstanding contribution to the Board of Health and the Department of Health for many years. In addition, Mr. Carangelo announced that Mr. Vick Sandhu will not be seeking reappointment for next term but will stay on the Board until a replacement is confirmed. Finally, Chairmen introduced the Selectman’s Nomination Advisory Committee liaison Ms. Nancy Duffy.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 22, 2020 meeting were approved.

(Motion: O’Keefe / Second: Ramos / Vote: Unanimous, 5 in favor, 2 abstentions)

GEMS Quarterly Report

Chairman commended GEMS for being 3rd best place to work for in Connecticut for employers of 125 or less people, as reported in a Greenwich Time article (www.greenwichtime.com/topworkplaces/ Sept 22, 2020).

Mr. Miserendino offered the following financial report:

- The report is for the 1st quarter ending July 31, 2020.
- The change in net operating assets for the quarter was a positive 184,000, driven by revenue being slightly below budget and expenses being significantly below budget.
- The patient revenue was down 14%, which is about \$86,000 below budget, due to low call volume since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Event services have also been down, so has the related revenue line item.
- Another revenue line item that has been negative is the investment revenue, as the interest rates are near zero.
- On the positive side, on the revenue side: Trading revenue is up significantly up \$42,000, due to increased attendance in training classes.
- Expenses were 10% below budget or \$196,000, the key driver were personnel services and benefits within personnel services.
- Cash collections for the quarter are down 24% and billable calls were also down 18%.

DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

Ms. Schietinger offered the following operational report:

- GEMS activities have been slower and inconsistent due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The call volume this past August was larger than last year's, likely due to Greenwich residents remaining home instead of travelling, as usually the case in the month of August.
- The preparation of budget will be a challenge due to the uncertain trajectory of this pandemic .
- Per Director of Health's request, GEMS fit tested all school nurses for N95 masks, which will translate in savings for the Town.
- GEMS will assist the Greenwich Department of Health during the community influenza vaccination clinic operations.
- The cardiac arrest save rate was 42% last year, compared to the national average of 10%.
- One of the upcoming fundraiser events will be a Halloween event that will include decorating an old ambulance and for a \$10 fee, GEMS staff will bring Halloween to each child/household.
- Ms. Schietinger is aggressively seeking support for the replacement of Station 4, (1327 King Street) which is currently in a deplorable condition. The agency is in an acute need of new building in the back-country area of the Town.

Election of officers of the Board

Due to Dr. Cahn's departure from the Board and resulting vacancy of the Vice Chairman position, Chairman of the Board proposed that Dr. Bronin fill the position of the Vice Chairman and Ms. Ramos will replace Dr. Bronin as the Board's Secretary.

Vote to elect Dr. Andrew Bronin a Vice Chairman of the Board of Health and Maryann Ramos as Secretary of the Board of Health:

(Motion: O'Keefe / Second: Sandhu / Vote: Unanimous, 7 in favor, 0 abstentions)

Covid-19 Update

The Director of Health welcomed the new members of the Board, Dr. Gamble and Ms. Fountain and offered the following pandemic update:

- The Department reports COVID-19 positive case relates data to the Town Administration each Wednesday. This data will be posted on the Town's Webpage in the near future.
- The First Selectman announced reopening of the Town Hall on October 13, with limited walk-in hours.
- The Governor is going forward with phase 3 reopening of the State. The summary of changes is available on the State's website.
- The Department of Health is planning one of the flu vaccination clinics at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center on October 14, 2020. The Department will assure that all social distancing, mask wearing, and infection control practices are in place and upheld.
- Most of areas in the country, except for New England, are reporting significant increase of positive COVID-19 cases.
- In Greenwich, there are 1008 positive cases reported to date. The Department calculates and reports rolling 7-day average, which is used by school districts to determine if in-person learning can continue safely.

DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

- There is increase in testing, including in schools that helps to identify and isolate both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases.
- There is a concern that with the upcoming flu season, there will be two respiratory viruses circulating with similar symptoms; however, the flu season is expected to be mild, due to mask wearing and social distancing measures already in place.
- The Department's staff continues with case monitoring and contact tracing in the community, with the Director conducting contact tracing in schools.
- The Department is preparing to conduct drive-thru flu vaccination clinic, which will take place on October 24 at the Island Beach parking lot.
- The Department is also preparing to conduct a COVID-19 vaccination campaign as soon as the vaccine is available and appropriated to the Town of Greenwich.
- All Divisions continue with their normal activities despite being busy with vaccination clinic planning and contact tracing.

Chairman thanked Ms. Baisley for her updates and there being no further business, he moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

(Motion: Ramos / Second: Sandhu/Vote: Unanimous; 7-in favor, 0 abstentions)

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Ramos, [Secretary]