

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

October 26, 2016

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

Guests: Denise Savageau, Conservation Director, Town of Greenwich; James Hricay, Managing Director of Operations, Board of Education; Ron Malten, Director of Facilities, Board of Education

Staff: Carol Dixon; Michael Long

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 27, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.
(Motion: Bronin / Second: Ross Cahn / Vote: 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

GREENWICH WATER SHORTAGE/MANDATORY RESTRICTIONS

Denise Savageau presented the following:

- About 88% of our households are served by surface water supply which is managed by Aquarion. It's called the Greenwich System because other than Rockwood the reservoirs are in Greenwich and that's where the treatment plants are, but this is a regional system that also serves Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester. Although recently water had to be transferred from Stamford to Greenwich, there are also times where water goes from Greenwich to Stamford, therefore, it's a regional system.
- 12% of our households are on private wells, so when we are dealing with drought and water quality and quantity issues we need to take this into consideration.
- The reason that streams flow into the reservoir in the summertime when it hasn't rained in months is because the water is coming from subsurface flow from the ground water. We don't have large lakes here; our reservoirs are basically dammed up streams. That means we don't just have to monitor our water in the streams, we have to monitor the ground water tables.

- Typical level for our reservoirs this time of year is about 65 – 70%. We are currently at about 26%.
- In Greenwich, normal demand is about 12 million gallons per day. In summer, that demand rises to about 18 million gallons per day – a 50% increase. During times of drought or extended heat, peak demand can exceed 32 million gallons a day, primarily to support lawn irrigation – a 160% increase.
- Climate change is another factor affecting the water supply.
- Greenwich needs to update the drought management plan and work with Aquarion on new trigger levels in our reservoirs to handle water shortages and droughts. Currently the 30 year old triggers in place need updating along with reviewing land use regulations and quantity and quality issues caused by “the great American lawn” – irrigation, fertilizer and pesticide use. We need to institutionalize water conservation and source water protection through outreach and education efforts; and regulation where necessary.

Much discussion ensued regarding the three phases of water restrictions in Greenwich, water demand, lawn irrigation, public education efforts and ordinances and restrictions in surrounding communities.

UPDATE ON WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL SOIL CONTAMINATION

James Hricay made the following presentation:

- When New Lebanon was looking for a temporary location for modular classrooms and considered Western Middle School the State required some environmental testing, which identified the presence of some lead, arsenic, PCBs and Chlordane.
- Board of Education is working with the State Dept. of Public Health on Chlordane and lead. Project is below actionable limits, but the Town still consults with the State.
- PCBs are under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Environmental and Energy Program (DEEP). The Board of Education is working with the DEEP on PCBs. The DEEP has required additional testing and results are not yet available.
- The soil contamination at Western is not the same situation as Greenwich High School.
- New recommendations from the State will be publicized to keep the public informed.

2017 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The 2017 meeting schedule was approved unanimously.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman remarked that a question was raised at the last meeting regarding Chromium 6 in drinking water. Michael Long reported that according to Brian Toal at the State Department of Public Health the EPA had required a number of large community water systems across the country to test for Chromium 6 in their water supplies over a three year period, based on a 2008 study conducted by the National Toxicology Program. Aquarion Water Company of Greenwich was one of those companies and they did do testing in 2014 and 2015. Mr. Long also spoke with Michael Hage in the Water Supply Section of the State Department of Public Health, which is the State section that regulates water companies. EPA is in the process of reviewing all the data based on this testing because there is no national standard for Chromium 6. Currently the EPA standard is for Total Chromium, which is comprised of Chromium 3 and Chromium 6. Chromium 3 has no reported health issues associated with it; Chromium 6 is the one in question. So EPA is in the process of looking at all the information to determine if a specific standard for Chromium 6 needs to be adopted. As far as Total Chromium goes, that standard is 100 parts per billion (ppb) by EPA standards. So based on the water testing results for Aquarion, levels of Chromium 6 ranged from 0.041 – 0.22 ppb with an average level of 0.083 ppb. Based on those results, Michael Hage feels those are naturally occurring levels of Chromium 6 and not an industrial contaminate of any sort.

Dr. Ross Cahn pointed out an article she had seen in the Greenwich Time regarding the State consideration to consolidate local Health Departments. She felt it may be necessary for the Board to address this in the future.

The Board's Budget sub-committee will meet with the Director in November to discuss the 2017/2018 proposed budget. Two members of the RTM Health and Human Services Committee will be attending to give their input and, hopefully, support. Deb Flynn, the Business Office Manager is retiring so this budget process will be extremely challenging.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Bronin moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:30 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Bronin, M.D.

Secretary