MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
November 22, 2016

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

Absent: Dr. Mark Armstrong

Guests: John Rabin, Chairman of the Board of GEMS; John Strong, Chief Financial Officer of GEMS;
Tracy Schietinger, GEMS Director of Operations; Chris Tremblay, GEMS Director of
Professional Standards; John Herity, Vice-President, Water Quality/Environmental
Management, Aquarion Water Company; Jeff Ulrich, Director of Supply Operations, Aquarion
Water Company

Staff: Carol Dixon; Joanna Lipson; Deborah Travers

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 26, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

(Motion: Sandhu / Second: Ross Cahn / Vote: 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

GEMS Proposed 2017/2018 Draft Budget

John Raben, Chairman, GEMS Board of Directors, reported that the GEMS Executive Committee has
approved the proposed 2017/2018 budget and the full GEMS Board of Directors is expected to approve it
next week. John Strong, GEMS Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the budget, noting that the 2017/2018
budget request from the Town is $4,655,800, an increase of $76,000 (1.7%) over 2016/2017. Mr. Strong
noted that fund raising efforts have enabled GEMS to raise sufficient funds for all capital expenditures;
however medical equipment costs are rising faster than donation levels. The cost of a fully equipped
ambulance has jumped 116% in ten years. GEMS capital fund raising through donations has been
substantial, but not at that growth rate.

Government assigned rates significantly reduce revenue GEMS receives from patient services, and
serve to increase the annual request for Town funding under their contract. An advanced life support call is
reduced to $464 by Medicare and to $317 by Medicaid. Our Town population has a comparatively high
Medicare eligible distribution.
Greenwich Hospital will maintain its support at $91,000 and in-kind contributions of Station 1 and medical supplies will continue.

Investment income estimated at $1,900 reflects the low interest rate environment.

Mr. Raben advised that an Executive Search firm has been engaged in the process of filling the position of Executive Director. Interviews are anticipated to begin sometime in January.

Discussion ensued and Dr. Bronin moved to endorse the GEMS 2017-2018 budget as presented. Chairman thanked the GEMS representatives for their report.

(Motion: Bronin/Second: Chiappetta/Vote: Unanimous -- 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

Zika Update

Joanna Lipson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator presented an update regarding the Zika Virus. As of November 16, 2016 there are no locally acquired cases, 139 cases in South Florida, bringing the total in the U.S. states to 4,255. At the time of her last presentation on July 20, the total was 1,400. In U.S. Territories the number has risen from 3,800 to 32,000. In the U.S. there are over 1,000 Zika cases in pregnant women and over 2,000 in the U.S. territories. So far there have been 26 infants born with birth defects and 5 pregnancy losses with birth defects. In Connecticut, there have been over 1,000 patients testing positive for the Zika Virus, as opposed to 491 in July.

Zika is endemic in South Asia, and the CDC recommends pregnant women should consider postponing nonessential travel to Southeast Asia countries with reports of Zika virus infection from local transmission. In addition, pregnant women who lived in, traveled to or had sex with someone who lived in or traveled to Miami-Dade County after August 1, 2016 should be tested for Zika virus. Pregnant women who lived in, traveled to or had sex with a person who lived in or traveled to the 4.5-square-mile area of Miami Beach after July 14, 2016 or the 1 square mile area of Little River, Florida after August 1, 2016 should be tested for Zika.

There are three possible Zika vaccines currently in phase I trials, with anticipation of going into phase II trials early next year. In addition, drugs currently approved for other medical treatments are being looked at for possible Zika efficacy.

Last week the Board of Mosquito Management in the Florida Keys passed a resolution to begin trials with genetically modified mosquitoes. Florida also uses adulticide mosquito management methods to control adult mosquitoes.

All donated blood is now tested for Zika.

Chairman thanked Ms. Lipson for the updated information.

Water Shortage Update
John Herlihy, Vice-President of Water Quality/Environmental Management and Jeff Ulrich, Director of Supply Operations for the Aquarion Water Company, made the following presentation:

- The severe drought has reduced the water supply in the following towns to emergency levels:
  - Darien
  - Greenwich
  - Stamford
  - New Canaan

- Greenwich reservoirs are 25.1% full – much lower than normal
- Rainfall is well below normal – so are streamflows into reservoirs
- Aquarion Actions:
  Reduce Demand – met with officials of all four towns, in early fall implemented mandatory ban on outdoor water use, made telephone calls to high users and violators, patrolled areas for violators and reported them to respective Towns, took out newspaper ads, and had mobile billboards created and requested reduction of indoor usage by 20%

  Customer Communications – by local daily and weekly newspaper advertising and direct mail postcards

  Increase Supply – moved more water between Greenwich reservoirs, moved water from Stamford to Greenwich, moved more water through Southwest Regional pipeline

- Long-term Solutions:
  Decrease demand through conservation
  Increase supply by increasing capacity of Southwest Regional pipeline

Discussion ensued regarding public education and possible additional methods to encourage conservation.

2017/2018 Department of Health Budget

Chairman advised that the proposed 2017/2018 budget is up around 1% from the 2016/2017 budget, which is well under the 2% BET Budget Committee guideline. Excluding salaries, the budget increase is $6,000, $5,000 of which is for vaccines, so it is essentially a flat budget. The main drivers of this very modest budget are salaries, which are contractual obligations.

The Board of Health Budget Overview Committee met twice with Mrs. Baisley and also met with two Health and Human Services Committee members, who were quite supportive of the proposed budget.

Dr. Cahn drafted a resolution which the Chairman and Dr. Bronin added to in passing the budget. It addresses what the Department does and indicates that any reduction to the budget would negatively impact the health and welfare of the residents.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that a modification be made to address the dental program. Dr. Bronin moved to approve the resolutions as written and amended.

(Motion: Bronin / Second: Ross Cahn / Vote: Unanimous - 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

Chairman then called attention to the 2017/2018 fee schedule in connection with the budget, which must also be
approved. The recommendation is about a 3% increase over the 2016/2017 fee schedule. Brief discussion ensued and Dr. Bronin moved to approve the fee schedule as presented.

(Motion: Bronin / Second: Ross Cahn / Vote: Unanimous - 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman stated that the December meeting would most likely be cancelled, and that the January meeting would be held in the Evaristo Room beginning at 6:00 PM.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Bronin moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:00 PM.

(Motion: Bronin / Second: Sandhu / Vote: Unanimous - 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Andrew Bronin, M.D.

Secretary