

HEALTH DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES of JANUARY 18, 2007
Durham Town Hall

Call to Order and Attendance

Selectwoman/Chairperson Maryann P. Boord called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.
In attendance: Members Dede Levy, Dr. Leo Willett, Donia Viola and Bill Milardo and one member of the media, Peter Downs of The Hartford Courant.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by D. Levy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 2, 2007
Second by B. Milardo. Vote – 4 ayes, 2 abstentions (D. Viola, L. Willett, MD)

Review of Responses to Questions Posed to the East Shore Health District's Director

Response to Question #1 was read. The District would accept the Town of Durham and its benefits and challenges.

Member Karen Buckley-Bated arrived at 6:20 pm.

Response to Question #2 was read. "For the sake of consistency and fairness", the East Shore Health District would apply its fee schedule to all food vendors. Prior to the Durham Fair, a meeting would be hosted by the East Shore Health District's environmental health staff for attendance by the vendors. The meeting would give the vendors an opportunity to learn what to expect during the inspections and would allow the sanitarians to become familiar with the food service operator and his/her concession. Discussion ensued concerning the fees' impact on the small non-profit vendors versus the need for fees to generate revenue for District health programs. Maybe the District could accommodate a one-year exemption or an easing in of the fees.

Response to Question # 3 was read. The East Shore Health District would support a satellite office in the Town of Durham. The District would ask that the Town "provide the space and facility to conduct business". A satellite office would improve service to contractors that work in North Branford and any issues with staffing, communications, and coordination with the main office could be worked out.

Summary based on the responses to the three questions: No Red Flags.

Review of the East Shore Health District Budget

After review of the budget, a few questions were raised that will be directed to Mr. Monopoli for answers. In general, the committee feels that the East Shore Health District is well established, stable, and a provider of good programs at a low cost. With North Branford as a member of the District, the Town of Durham would be contiguous.

Review of Responses to Questions Posed to the CT River Area Health District's Director

The Director of Health, Mary Jane Engle, forwarded the questions to the District's Board of Health. The Board would like some dialogue with this committee prior to answering the questions.

Discussion Concerning Scenario #6

Based on calculations provided by Pamela Kilby-Fox of the CT Department of Public Health, a new health district that includes the towns of Durham, Middlefield, Killingworth and Haddam would cost \$20 per capita. Due to the anticipated expense, this scenario was eliminated from the running.

Discussion Concerning Scenario #7

Calculations were provided by Pamela Kilby-Fox of the CT Department of Public Health for the provision of core health programs by the Durham Health Department on its own. Due to the large fees and the prohibitive per capita cost, this scenario was eliminated from the running.

Discussion Concerning Programs within the Town of Durham's Human Services Department

D. Levy investigated the programs and will try to determine if some of the programs will be redundant if the Town joins a health district. D. Levy mentioned that she had contacted Dr. Bradford Wilkinson, the Town's Director of Health, concerning his thoughts about districting. D. Levy conveyed his remark of being 100% behind it.

Preparation of the Report to the Board of Selectmen

Selectwoman M. Boord discussed drafting of the report and the need for additional information from the Health Directors of the East Shore Health District and the Connecticut River Area Health District.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Selectwoman M. Boord. Second by K. Buckley-Bates. Vote - All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by William R. Milardo, Jr.