

Health District Committee Non- posted informal discussion
Minutes of January 24, 2007
Durham Town Hall

Attendance:

Selectwoman Maryann P. Boord began the informal discussion at 6:10 pm. In attendance: members Donia Viola, Dede Levy, and Karen Buckley-Bates.

Due to technical difficulties, the agenda was not posted for this meeting. As a result, the members present decided to have an informal discussion.

Informal Discussion:

M. Boord noted that both the CT River Area Health District and the East Shore Health District Boards of Directors would like to meet with this committee on February 8th. CT River meets at 4:15 PM and East Shore is at 7:00 PM. Members discussed the possibility of carpooling to these meetings together. D. Levy noted that she is unable to attend. The committee will explore the possibility of conference calling or web based conferencing for members not able to attend in person.

It was also noted that both Boards have expressed concerns about increased costs to their Boards. They have also asked about the revenue projections for Durham. East Shore also noted the need to talk about a smooth transition.

The members did a general review of the CT River Area Health District budget.

M. Boord shared the answers from East Shore about immunization of those who do not have insurance. Specifically for children, East Shore has existing relationships with area pediatricians to provide the immunizations at cost to East Shore. In reference to our questions about Emergency Management, East Shore noted that the Emergency Management Coordinator deals with public health issues and is separate and distinct from the Emergency Management Director.

M. Boord noted her hope for a unanimous recommendation that would move forward to the Board of Selectman.

There was informal discussion about the possibility of Middletown looking to “contract out” some of its services, as it explores adding a sanitarian on its payroll. Members expressed concerns about increased costs to Durham and M. Boord shared that Pamela Kilbey-Fox (State DPH) expressed some concern about liability and accountability in this type of arrangement.

The members present had a general discussion about the fact that districting would be only a two year commitment and that it was essential to have the right person representing Durham on the Health District Board. Each member also shared their thoughts on the two proposals to date. It was noted that there were many positives to joining a health district that should be noted when the committee makes its presentation to the Board of Selectman. Some of the positives are: savings, coverage 24/7, enhancement of programs/services, increased per capita funding from the state, and new revenue – grants and fees.

Committee members discussed the need of ensuring links to current human service offerings in Durham without duplication.

Members had a brief discussion of the questions to ask of the Boards at the February 8th visits. Questions would include: Revenue projections, Satellite office, Durham Fair fees, linkages to existing services without duplication, temporary versus permanent facilities, review of contract provisions for health directors, anticipated increase in overall budgets.

2007 Meeting dates:

Upcoming meeting dates include: 1/31 at 6pm, 2/8 to attend Board meetings, 2/15 at 6:15 PM. Presentation to the Board of Selectman on 2/26.

Informal Discussion ended at approximately 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Buckley-Bates