

CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT

Serving the Towns of East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough & Portland

BOARD MEMBERS

DIRECTOR

Susan Bransfield, *Chairman*

King, *MPH, RS*

Peter Hughes, *Vice Chairman*

Michael Hillsberg, *Treasurer*

Howard Dean

Mark Walter

DISTRICT HEALTH

Thad D.

February 26, 2008

2:00 PM

East Hampton Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: Susan Bransfield Michael Hillsberg Peter Hughes
Mark Walter Howard Dean

Absent: Alan Bergren (pending resignation)

Other: Thad King

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bransfield called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

2. Approval of Minutes (January 29, 2008)

Motion was made by Mr. Dean, seconded by Mr. Walter, to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2008 meetings (Regular and Public Hearing) as written. Vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

4. Emergency Response Planning Update

Mr. King presented an update to emergency planning. Mr. King presented the Board with a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Gavaghan based on comments from last months meeting.

Mr. King noted that a meeting has been planned for Technical Assistance Review (TAR). Particularly the Fire Marshals and Emergency Management Directors for the

Towns of Hebron and Portland are required to complete this review to determine the SNS status.

5. Communications

Mr. King present the Board with a cost comparison for each Town from 2001-2007, with and without District membership.

Mr. King noted that CADH is working with an environmental group to place the wood burning stoves in the nuisance category within the Public Health Code.

6. Director of Health Report -

Town of Haddam, District Membership - Mr. King introduced Mr. Bondi, First Selectman for the Town of Haddam. Mr. Bondi commented on making a correction to last months minutes noting the misspelling of his name; "Biondi". Correction noted. Mr. Bondi presented the Board with a status of the Town of Haddam's analysis in joining the District. Mr. Bondi stated that there is a Public Hearing scheduled for March 13th. He expects to field questions and hold another Town Meeting approximately two weeks following, to vote in favor or against. Mr. Bondi expressed concern that Haddam Neck residence feel excluded from the Emergency Planning. Mr. King stated that Mr. Zions of Haddam Neck has been involved in the Emergency Planning and could be used as a contact person to pass on information.

The Board discussed the benefits of joining the District in addition to the cost savings; a full-time health director, additional sanitarians, legal assistance.

Mr. Bondi departed the meeting.

Mr. King updated the Board on 474 Glastonbury Turnpike, Portland. Mr. King stated that an agreement was met between the parties. The property will be cleaned by April 15th or by order of the court, it will be removed.

Mr. King noted that he sent out a proposed budget, including the Town of Haddam, with a lower per capita rate. Discussion was held and the consensus of the Board was to maintain the original per capita rate for the upcoming year and deposit the overage into the capital reserve.

Food Service Inspection Report - Mr. King presented an update to the Board on the food service inspection as of July through February. Mr. King stated that inspections are behind. The Board discussed a plan to catch up on the inspections. Mr. King stated that the immediate plan will be to get Portland caught up and then to have the required inspections done on the establishments throughout the remainder of the year. The Board expressed the importance for being current on the schools.

Wastewater Pumping and Permit to Discharge Regulation – Mr. King presented a letter from Amanda Crovo, of DPH, depicting comments and suggested changes to the revised draft regulation. There were comments regarding general housekeeping, which will be required to be permitted, and variances. Steve Knauf will be working with Ms. Crovo to finalize the draft and Mr. King is hopeful that there will be a document ready for public hearing April/May timeframe. Discussion was held regarding the importance of educating the residence on the regulation. Mr. King stated that Nancy McAuliffe is working on a newsletter for the Town of East Haddam.

7. Radon Resistant Housing Policy

Mr. King presented the information received from Don Mitchell after attending a conference regarding the latest information on radon resistant construction.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas. The average indoor level of radon is 1.3 pCi/l, outdoors is .4. 4 pCi/l is the standard. Studies initially were done on coal miners with confounding factors to include asbestos, smoking, dust, etc.

Residential studies have not been able to determine a definitive relationship to a threshold level of exposure to radon. However, radon has been linked to the second leading cause of lung cancer.

The District has offered free testing kits, through DPH. Testing is easy to do, but can be done wrong. Results are not required and quite often are not reported to the local health departments.

Part of the workshop that Mr. Mitchell attended was on new mitigation techniques construction contractors could use. Mitigation is easy and low cost if done at the time of construction. There is currently no building code requirement for radon mitigation.

Mr. King presented a proposal to the Board for a voluntary radon program for residential housing construction. There would be an educational program for contractors and building officials. A standardized construction template could be made available to be reviewed by the health department and the building official. A certificate of compliance with radon resistant housing could be issued upon completion.

Mr. King stated that Mr. Mitchell could be available for next meeting to discuss this issue further.

8. Committee Assignments

Members of the Board volunteered to serve on the committees as noted below:

Budget Committee- Mr. Hillsberg, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Bransfield

Personnel Committee – Ms. Morris (to be appointed), Mr. Walter, Mr. Dean

Policy Committee – Ms. Bransfield, Mr. Dean, Mr. Hughes

9. By-Laws Revisions

Mr. King requested that the Policy Committee review the by-laws for any possible changes. The Policy Committee will meet prior to the next meeting, at 1:30 on March 25, 2008. Ms. Bransfield noted that should more than three Board members attend it will be considered a Board meeting.

10. Old Business

Mr. King reported that Middletown Avenue property owners were not interested in re-negotiating for a shorter lease without increase the cost.

Mr. King noted that a new location was pursued, outside of the RFP request, due to its availability. This 1200sqft unit is located on Main Street, East Hampton. Additional information will be provided for next meeting.

11. New Business

The Hebron Senior Center had an ongoing Fall Prevention program funded by the State of Connecticut. Yale University oversaw the program. This was an exercise program with a nursing component for screening of the individuals. The program was no longer being funded at \$45/person. Mr. King discussed options with the Director of the Hebron senior center; splitting the Physical Inactivity Block Grant, additional grants, visiting nurses. Discussion was held regarding options. Mr. King suggested meeting with Mr. Hillsberg and the Director to discuss VNA contract wording.

Ms. Bransfield noted agenda items for next meeting; Town of Haddam update, Food Service Inspection Report, Wastewater Pumping, office space, Radon and the By-law Committee will be meeting at 1:30, prior to the next meeting.

Kathy Devough, representing the East Haddam Lakes Association, was present for the most up to date Pumping Regulation. Ms. Devough stated that the next Lakes Association meeting is March 26th, the day after the next Board meeting. Mr. King stated that a District representative will be at the meeting.

12. Adjournment

Following no further business, motion was made by Mr. Dean seconded by Mr. Walter, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:47pm.