

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

November 10, 2021
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy Iino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney, and Health Director Amy Scholz and Guests: First Selectperson-Elect Nancy Gorski and Brendan Crowley

Chair Natalie Drew called the meeting to order via the GotoMeeting app at 7:01pm.

Minutes- The committee reviewed and approved minutes from the following meeting:

October 13, 2021 Regular Meeting:

MOTION: Robin Duffield moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 13th meeting. Voting in favor: Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy Iino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions Natalie Drew. The motion carried 6:0:1.

First Selectman Update- Cathy again welcomed Nancy Gorski, now incoming First Selectperson. Nancy thanked Cathy for working with her to catch up on public health issues. Cathy reported the following:

Assure Competent Public Health Workforce- Health Director Amy Schulz's last day will be Friday, November 12th. This past Monday, the Board of Selectmen voted to contract for public health services with the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) for three months. They will provide health department and sanitarian roles. The town can terminate the contract earlier if we choose another way to provide public health services. The cost is \$6,045/month but the town will still collect permit fees. Cathy noted that CRAHD is already doing a number of things for the town, even though we are not part of the health district. A longer term relationship with CRAHD or another health district will depend on what the town decides to do.

Cathy noted that the cost for CRAHD is higher than was budgeted for our current part-time health director/sanitarian model. The budgeted cost did not take into account the extra time required for COVID and PFAS. When the extra time for those issues is budgeted in, the cost for the health district contract is closer to the town's current cost. Amy added that the current workload needs around a 1.5 full time position. She reported that the town spent \$30,000 this past year in COVID related expenses. Cathy said that another option to a health district is to hire a full-time Health Director/Sanitarian and a part-time sanitarian.

Sue asked what was our current per capita. Amy replied \$6.85 for 2020. Sue noted that CRAHD's per capita for 2020 was \$11.40, according to a chart from the state Department of Public Health (DPH). Robin observed that since the current position is part-time, there are no benefits. When you add the cost for a full-time position, the cost for benefits may narrow the difference. She added that it would be easier for the school system, for services like contact tracing, to work with one health department instead of the current two- Killingworth and CRAHD.

Mike observed that it may be a question of the priority for local control. If that's a priority for the town, then they have to be willing to pay for it. Joining a health district means giving up some local autonomy. Cathy remarked that a seat on the board of the health district is not exactly giving up local control but being part of a larger entity.

Vaccination- The age breakdown for currently vaccinated is as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Approximate % Town Population Fully Vaccinated</u>
65+	100
45-64	68
25-44	77
18-24	88
12-17	56

Robin reported that masks are not being required for sports like wrestling. Natalie observed that stores seemed to be bringing back mask requirements.

Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water- Amy reported that the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is finalizing its plans for its PFAS investigation. They may put in some of their own wells and well as use existing wells. They will pull tests from their original investigation.

Nancy explained that her house is in the investigation zone. DEEP is testing on a seasonal basis to see if there is any difference over time.

Assure Competent Public Health Workforce- Health Director- Amy thanked agency members of their support. She will be taking a position as Deputy Director of the East Shore Health District. Committee members thanked her for her work during a challenging past year.

MOTION: Robin Duffield moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Betty Dennis, Natalie Drew, Robin Duffield, Cathy Iino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: 0. The motion carried 7:0:0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Nesci

Sue Nesci
Secretary

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KILLINGWORTH, CT
2021 NOV 15 A 10:28
Michelle Drew
Asst
TOWN CLERK