

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

February 24, 2009

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Robert Ailleo; Dr. Peter Arturi; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dorian Fabio; Dr. Michael Franco; Dr. Naomi Tamerin

Guests: Charlee Tufts, Executive Director and John Strong, Fiscal Officer, GEMS; David Theis, Selectmen's Nomination Advisory Committee Liaison; Gerald Isaacson, Chair, RTM Health and Human Services Committee, Meredith Blake, Greenwich Time

Staff: Ann Augustine

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM

Dr. Arturi introduced David Theis, Selectmen's Nominations Advisory Committee, stating that he is the liaison to the Board of Health. Mr. Theis briefly described the work of the Committee and distributed information about the nomination process for Town Boards and Committees.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 29, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

(Motion: Fabio / Second: Arturi / Vote: Unanimous – 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

GEMS QUARTERLY REPORT

John Strong offered the following financial report:

- Call volume exceeded budget by a total of 205 calls for the first three quarters of the fiscal year
- The change in net assets for GEMS' funds was higher by \$70,000 and for unrestricted funds the change was negative by \$12,000 for the first three quarters of the fiscal year
- Patient care service revenue exceeded budget by \$83,000 for the nine month period due to increased call volume; income from training, standby for special events and interest income was \$17,000 above budget
- Personnel expenses were on budget for the first nine months of the fiscal year. Total service expense was unfavorable to budget by \$69,000 due to renewing long-term service contracts on medical equipment at higher than expected rates
- Payables were lower than the prior fiscal year end
- Current assets of \$1,050,000 for the first nine months of the fiscal year reflect receipt of the second-half of the annual Town contract payment.

Ms. Tufts reported that:

- TD Bank on Greenwich Avenue awarded GEMS a \$5,000 charitable donation.
- Work on the Art Barn is progressing and should be completed in the spring.
- On January 1, 2009, GEMS implemented the Induced Hypothermia Technique along with Greenwich Hospital.
- February is ***Heart Month*** and a display at Town Hall during February was designed to urge people to call 911 during an emergency and to teach them how to identify symptoms of a heart attack.

Brief discussion ensued about response times and staffing for Medic 4 for the King Street area. Chairman thanked Ms. Tufts and Mr. Strong for their reports.

AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE TO THE GEMS CONTRACT

Chairman referred to the proposed amendment to the GEMS contract that would extend the existing contract for five years until June 2014. Brief discussion about the contract ensued and Dr. Ailleo moved to approve Amendment Number One to the 2001 Amended and Restated Governing Agreement for Providing Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services by and between the Town of Greenwich and Greenwich Emergency Medical Services, Incorporated (“GEMS”).
(Motion: Ailleo/ Second: Arturi / Vote: Unanimous –7 in favor - 0 opposed)

DAYCARE ORDINANCE

Discussion of this item was tabled until the March meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Youth Health Survey: Chairman noted that he and the Director met with the Chair of the Board of Education and other school personnel to discuss the need to conduct a youth health survey in the school system. He stated that the Lower Fairfield County Regional Action Council offered to fund the study, which must be completed by June 2009. Chairman noted that the Board of Education was receptive to the survey, which will be completely anonymous, contain an “opt out” option and include Greenwich public and private school students. Brief discussion ensued and Chairman noted that he would be contacting private schools during the coming weeks to gain their support for the project.

Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee: Dr. Arturi reported that Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee members received 14 proposals for Construction Manager for Project Renew and stated that

the top 4 or 5 will be interviewed for selection. It is projected that construction will start in early 2010. Dr. Ross Cahn agreed to fill in for Dr. Arturi at the Building Committee meetings during March while he is away.

Artificial Turf: Dr. Arturi noted that he is very interested in the topic of artificial turf on athletic fields and that the Board of Selectmen will discuss the subject at its regular meeting to seek recommendations about what should be done to protect the children. Dr. Franco stated that he is familiar with the health aspects of artificial turf through his work on the Selectmen's Environmental Action Subcommittee on Artificial Turf. Brief discussion ensued.

Greenwich Coalition for End of Life Care: Dr. Tamerin reported that members of the Coalition participated in an online test and met for a full day conference to discuss various scenarios. Members of the Coalition will be in Town Hall once a week to help create Advance Directives.

Meeting Schedule: Dr. Ross Cahn pointed out that the September 21 meeting conflicts with the RTM meeting. Brief discussion ensued and the meeting will be rescheduled to Tuesday, September 22, 2009.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Ailleo moved to adjourn the public session of the meeting at 7:25 PM to commence Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

(Motion: Ailleo / Second: Franco / Vote: Unanimous - 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

Chairman reconvened the public session and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

(Motion: Arturi / Second: Tamerin / Vote: Unanimous – 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully yours,



Marilyn Ross Cahn, MD
Secretary