

APRIL 4, 2005 SPECIAL MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on April 4, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Czernicki, Forrest, Fortunato, Hemmann, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

Also present: Rae Ann Palmer, Assistant Town Manager, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Central Connecticut Health District

Health District Director Paul Hutcheon provided PowerPoint presentations on the Health District's Strategic Plan, the Health District's Annual Report, and on the Community Health Report Card.

Mr. Hutcheon stated that the Central Connecticut Health District was formed in 1996 by the towns of Rocky Hill and Wethersfield, with the Town of Berlin joining in 1998. He said that they are the district model of a local health department, also being Wethersfield's local Health Department with the central office being located at Wethersfield's Town Hall. Mr. Hutcheon said that there are also offices in both the Berlin and Rocky Hill Town Halls. Mr. Hutcheon explained that representation on the Health District's Board membership is based on population of one representative for every ten thousand residents. Wethersfield has three members and Rocky Hill and Berlin each have two.

[At this point Mr. Hutcheon gave three slide presentations, available below in Adobe PDF* format.]



[Strategic Plan](#) [52 KB PDF*]



[Annual Report](#) [95 KB PDF*]



[Community Health Report Card](#) [179 KB PDF*]

Councilor Czernicki thanked Mr. Hutcheon and the Board of Directors of the Central Connecticut Health District. She commented that the condition of the water at the Wethersfield Cove is one of the Town's biggest health risks, and

asked Mr. Hutcheon how important he feels it is for him to give testimony at MDC meetings as she would like to see the CCHD become more involved in the process. Mr. Hutcheon said that he can do this and that he is in contact with the MDC group preparing the plans. He said that the health impact and information needs to be available so that the right choices can be made. Councilor Czernicki asked Mr. Hutcheon if skin cancer screening at one the Town swimming areas will be considered for the summer. Mr. Hutcheon said that he can work with volunteers on this.

Councilor Cascio thanked Mr. Hutcheon for the reports and asked about the comment on the Report Card which states "2000 census except where noted", yet many of the statistics go to 2001 or 2002. He asked if this is due to the fact that the State does not have the information available for the Towns. Mr. Hutcheon said that this is so. Councilor Cascio asked if the community does any work to provide updates. Mr. Hutcheon said that statistical data for a number of items is provided to the Health District, but may not be in the current PowerPoint presentation; however the State takes time on other items so that some of them are not currently available for public issue. Councilor Cascio asked Mr. Hutcheon to provide an update of the mosquito spraying of the wetlands and the community since the Council provided the funds for the spraying program. Mr. Hutcheon said that the work contracted for has provided for the killing of hundreds of thousands of mosquitos which has made a definite impact on the mosquito population. Mr. Hutcheon said that it is more difficult to measure the success of the program in neighborhoods since mosquito breeding varies by location; however, overall there was a significant impact on the mosquito population. He said that the degree to which the program prevented disease is still unknown since you don't know which mosquitos were killed that could have transmitted disease.

Councilor Fortunato thanked Mr. Hutcheon for his presentation and commented on the possibility of starting an association of local Boards of Health. Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Hutcheon if the Health District will be part of the public education program relating to the Ordinance for a disconnect program. Mr. Hutcheon said that he would welcome this and feels that the Health District should be a part of this requirement of disconnection of sump pumps to the sanitary sewers. Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Hutcheon if he will continue to be involved in the Blight Ordinance when matters of health present themselves. Mr. Hutcheon said that he has to be involved when there is a matter of public health. He said that the enforcement of the Code transfers back to the Town Manager who will provide appropriate Staff to enforce the Ordinance. He said that the Health District is not directly responsible, but makes themselves available for consultation and enforcement of the Ordinance.

Chairperson Morin thanked Mr. Hutcheon for his presentation and efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m., Councilor Adil moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Forrest. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

*These linked files are in Adobe's Portable Document Format. To view them you will need Adobe Reader installed on your computer. It is available for free download at:

