

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 28, 1988



The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 pm

Present: R. Anderson, M. Brown, J. Gaffey, P. Helmreich,
B. Kimball, C. MacQuown, R. Nugent, A. Smith,
D. Ward, *J Desjardis*

Board of Health Reconsideration

C. DaCosta notes that their proposal for a Public Health Nurse would not need additional funds. The Board of Health feels that the Town's people would receive better services. She notes that the Town does not need a contract with a Health Agency to ensure Town's people to be seen by the Agency per referral.

Discussion of Insurance covering Malpractice. The Insurance is covered by the Town and State. The Board of Health does have a pending Town Counsel decision

Review of mandated services and recommended services.

The Public Health Consultants feel that this is a high cost for the services provided by CHA.

The Nurse will be part time at 16 hours/week

Crisis appropriation for crisis situations and clinics which may require additional time.

Review of letters provided from area Doctors and Boards of Health providing support for this idea

Town will be providing preventive health care

Doctor referrals can be to particular agencies

A. Smith questions liability issue.

C. DaCosta notes she has asked for Town Counsel's opinion and notes that voluntary individuals are covered under Town Insurance.

Mr. Chenevert notes that there is no additional liability.

Regular services: Blood Pressure clinics

Diabetes screening, AIDS education,

There have been only 3 cases of communicable disease last year.

There have been only 1 flu clinic in the past year, No well-baby clinics, 1 Mantoux testing

C. DaCosta notes that the Board feels that the Finance Committee did not ask for additional information and they feel that the Committee did not take the time needed to review this request.

Mr. Mooney - Health Director in Attleboro for 8 yrs, states that the City has had a PHN for 35 hours at a salary of \$23,000. He feels the PHN is immeasurable and states that the CHA cannot provide the same services as a PHN.

A PHN can uncover - neglect, health threatening situations

A. Smith notes the possibility of an expanding budget

Mr. Mooney notes that there is a void and the expansion is always possible for a new item.

P. Helmreich notes that job description and additions added tonight are far beyond 16 hours.

C. DaCosta notes that they can fulfill State mandates and additional services for the same funds. The Board of Health knows what the Town needs and it is their function to look into these needs.

The City of Attleboro with 37,000 people has a 35 hour PHN.

A. Smith questions the idea of contracting another agency.
C. DaCosta feels that it would be an additional cost.
L. Paquin, No Attleboro's PHN, notes that she receives referrals from the CHA for follow up of a case. The Town of No Attleboro has just added an additional employee because of the request for additional services to the Town's people.
K. Mann, Attleboro's PHN, notes that the time allowed will allow for what type of services are performed

Community Health Agency

Director Helga Downs notes that they thought that the Agency was providing additional services as well as contracted services and the first time they heard of any dissatisfaction was when C. DaCosta told the Agency that the Town may make a change. The Cost of Insurance has increased 50%.

If there is an epidemic, the CHA will come out in full force. The Agency can also provide additional services with the additional funds.

The CHA provided care for the elderly, poor and nonreimbursed Town's people. They have held 1 Flu clinic and a Blood pressure clinic every two weeks.

Ms. Downs notes that she feels that there is a communication gap regarding what type of services are required and requested. CHA can provide direct services on a regular basis.

There has been a \$3000 increase in the past 18 years.

There has been a small group of nurses which usually handle the Town's people and have established themselves.

The CHA can provide a wider range of services and to a wider range of people by cutting services directly to elderly and poor. The CHA will provide services by RIGHA, HMO's, etc.

P. Helmreich notes that the Finance Committee is to recommend to the Town what is in the best interest of the Town. The Finance Committee are not the Board of Health and the Finance Committee cannot recommend who is hired to provide the services.

Article 30

Regarding - Body Shops

The Business owners note that they need to have criteria and additional information. They do not feel that can comply without a set of guidelines.

A. Smith notes the Finance Committee has been asked only to give the Selectmen the authority per this bylaw

P. Helmreich notes that at the last Town Meeting the Commission was given approval to review bylaws, to add or delete

P. Helmreich notes that this change was to help limit toxic waste, control the storage of paint and use of toxic waste. Also to limit the 'fly by night' hobbyist.

The Inspection Dept, Fire Dept and Board of Selectmen will set the criteria.

Note: the Business owners had a disturbing experience with the Used Car license.

Questioning if the Town is responsible and have qualified employees to overlook the license and follow through.

The Business owners notes the list of licenses already required.

The Business owners state that the vagueness of the bylaw not specifically addressed with not criteria gives too much latitude. The criteria may vary year to year per elected Board that year.

Review of questions and answers received by P. Helmreich
A. Smith questions the issuance of license and zoning issue.
Business owners question if the Board of Selectmen are requesting for this bylaw or just set up by the Bylaw Commission.
There are other type of businesses that use toxic wastes and they have no bylaw covering their businesses.
The concerns by the Commission are covered by other types of licenses.

Review of a few of the bylaws proposed in article.
Businessmen would be comfortable if the bylaw had written criteria that the businesses could follow and not be separately discriminated against.
Businessmen note that they do have to have a hazardous waste number and disposal. Inspections and heavy fines maintain conformance.

A. Smith notes that this bylaw is to provide policeing of businesses who do not hold licenses.

P. Helmreich notes that the Finance Committee will not reconsider this article tonight.

P. Helmreich notes the receipt of Fire Department letters.
Review of transfer request.

Review of other department procedures.

Additional information request:

itemized receipts and breakdown

Question of bid process on repair process

Chairman to request additional information.

Review of sick time letter.

P. Helmreich questions that he suggest to the Chief that he run one man short on shifts to make up funds.

A. Smith notes that there are provision per contract to adhere to.

R. Nugent questions the Board of Health request for legal opinion. What type of question asked.

Discussion of information received.

Consensus - To request Town Counsel's opinion :

if current insurance covers PHN and Town if employee is a Town employee

greater Insurance need if provided by a PHN than that of a contracted agency

difference of liability in Nurse independent contractor or Town employee

Discussion of Board of Health's autonomy

Review of information received.

A. Smith questions if the Finance Committee should ask for an informal hearing to receive additional information on license regarding Auto Body shops
Discussion of hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 pm
until 4-6-88 at approximately 7:30 pm