



# Farmington Valley Health District

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## Meeting Minutes

### Board of Health Meeting

March 4, 2025

95 River Road

Canton, CT

12 Noon

Present: Jennifer Kertanis, Brandon Robertson, Warren Humphrey, Dianne Harding, Sandy Yost (Zoom), Suzanne Sinacori, Stephanie Johnson, Sam Carter, Jadwiga Gocłowski, Dan Jerram (Zoom), Tom Fitzgerald (Zoom), Debbie Brydon, Lynn Robitaille, Erin Barthel (Zoom), Joan Kuhnly (Zoom), Melissa Appleby

**The Public Hearing on FY 25-26 FVHD Proposed Budget was called to order by Brandon Robertson at 12:04 pm.** There were no comments. Jadwiga motioned and Warren seconded a motion to close the public hearing on the budget.

Brandon called the regular meeting of the Board to order at 12:06.

- I. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
- II. **Minutes from February 4, 2025:** Brandon asked for a motion to accept the minutes of February 4, 2025. Melissa Appleby moved to approve the minutes; Jadwiga Gocłowski seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- III. **Business:**
  - a. Adoption of FY 25-26 Budget: Brandon thanked the members of the Finance Committee for their work on the proposed budget. Brandon acknowledge that this budget presents no increase in the municipal per capita but emphasized that expenses have increased and we should not get used to level funding. Warren Humphrey moved to approve the FY 25-26 budget as presented with overall expenditures of \$1,954,465. Jadwiga Gocłowski seconded the motion. All in favor.
  - b. Staffing Updates: Jennifer Kertanis reported that we have extended offers to two candidates to support our environmental health programs. One is part-time and one is full-time. Jennifer Kertanis, Stephanie Johnson, Dianne Harding, and Jason Brown were involved in the interview process. They both have food experience, but both will need to be certified by the State DPH.
- IV. **Update:**
  - a. Legislative Items: DPH proposed that the local health department line item be cut by 10%. Local public health is already under funded, so proposing to cut our funding is very upsetting. Testimony was sent for the appropriations hearing. There were a lot of speakers testifying regarding the work that has been happening for years with no increase. CADH will continue to push back on the funding cuts and arrange for meetings with leadership to discuss the implications of cuts. Other legislative items being tracking include bills that would reinstate the

religious exemption for vaccines, likely to die without hearing. There was also a proposed bill requiring that local health departments inspected all rental units for mold before every new renter. This would be a very significant unfunded mandate in addition to the fact that there are no specific guidelines for evaluating mold contamination or clean up.

- b. H5N1 Avian Influenza: We attend biweekly meetings with the CDC to get updates. We put a fact sheet on our website. Currently there are two poultry outbreaks in backyard flocks in CT. Our focus is on providing backyard flock owners with information on how best to keep themselves and their families safe.
- c. Measles: There are 3 outbreaks and 160 cases of measles in TX. Our vaccination rates overall are high. Of all our towns, Canton is reported to have lower rates although still reasonably good.

V. **Overview-FVHD Inspectional Services:** Dianne Harding presented a PowerPoint explaining all the different environmental services we perform.

VI. **Adjourn:** Warren Humphrey motioned to adjourn; Lynn Robitaille seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.