

**East Haddam Economic Development Commission  
Special Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2018**

Attending: D. Bergeron; R. Casner; I. Haines; R. Parady; S. Smith

Absent: J. Albuquerque; J. Fennema; F. Weissbach

Guests: E. Blaschik

- I. Call To Order - Mr. Casner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- II. Attendance – Attendance at the meeting was taken.
- III. Approval of Minutes – Regular meeting of 10/4/18 – The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2018.

MOTION MADE BY MS. HAINES, SECONDED BY MS. SMITH, TO APPROVE THE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2018 AS WRITTEN.  
UNANIMOUS AYE.

IV. Old Business

- A. Chatham Health – Mr. Casner reviewed the history of EDC’s consideration of Chatham Health District’s services and noted that Town businesses, in particular building contractors and food service, continue to be unhappy with the Heath District’s availability. He stated that an EDC sub-committee had researched some of the other options available to the Town.

Ms. Haines reported they had received good feedback from town officials and businesses regarding CT River Area Health District. She advised that they met with representatives from the CT River District and both she and Mr. Casner were impressed with how proactive they appear to be in both the real estate and public health areas.

Mr. Casner stated that they had also met with the Director of Chatham Health District, Don Mitchell who advised that the District has not had a great deal of success recruiting experienced sanitarians and, consequently, have mainly hired newly certified sanitarians. Mr. Casner stated that he would rather East Haddam have the benefit of an experienced sanitarian rather than be a training position for new sanitarians.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Bergeron, Mr. Casner confirmed that the per-capita rate for Chatham Health is \$11.11, while the CT River Area rate is \$11.00. He noted that as more towns join the health district, the rates should decline. There was a general discussion regarding fees and Mr. Casner noted that, although the fees across the two districts are comparable, CT River does not impose a “Right to Discharge” fee. The Commissioners also discussed significant increases in some of the Chatham Health District fees.

Mr. Casner noted that he feels the timing is good to terminate the agreement with Chatham Health because it is currently reorganizing and it would be a good time to notify them that East Haddam is not renewing their contract. The Commissioners discussed the timing of withdrawing from Chatham Health and logistics of signing a new contract with another health district.

MOTION MADE BY MS. HAINES, SECONDED BY MR. BERGERON, TO SEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN EDC'S RECOMMENDATION TO VOID THE TOWN'S CONTRACT WITH CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT AND PURSUE A RELATIONSHIP WITH A NEW HEALTH DISTRICT. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Bergeron thanked Mr. Casner and Ms. Haines for their work in researching alternatives to the Town's contract with Chatham Health District. The Commissioners agreed to include a cover letter requesting EDC's recommendation be added to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda.

V. New Business

A. Business of the Month – December – Nomination/Vote – This agenda item was postponed for discussion at the next regular meeting.

B. Pay Bills – This agenda item was postponed for consideration at the next regular meeting.

In response to a question raised by Mr. Bergeron, Ms. Smith reported that the Friends of Gillette's Castle had contacted her requesting that EDC and the East Haddam Business Association decorate a room at the castle for the holidays. She noted that she is considering a "Shop Local" theme.

Ms. Smith advised that she is waiting for a bid for the new business welcome banner.

VI. Public Comment – Mr. Blaschik thanked the Commissioner's for their efforts in researching alternatives to the Chatham Health District.

VII. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. BERGERON, SECONDED BY MS. HAINES, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon Wheeler