

A special meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, December 21, 2006, was called to order by Chair Todd Mielke, Chair, at 1:40 p.m., in rooms 320/321 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Councilmember Rob Crow
Councilmember David Crump
Councilmember Dick Denenny
Councilmember Bill Gothmann
Councilmember Brad Stark
Councilmember Mary Verner, Vice Chair
Commissioner Todd Mielke, Chair
Board Member Margaret Jones

ABSENT

Commissioner Phil Harris
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC
Commissioner Mark Richard
Board Member Charles Wolfe, MD

Chair Mielke announced that the board scheduled this special meeting for two purposes as outlined on the agenda. One is to determine if the board will take an official position with regard to the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on public health financing. The legislature will convene prior to the next board meeting. The second item is the issue of reviewing and finalizing documents pertaining to the conclusion of Dr. Thorburn's employment contract with the Health District.

Due to a number of inquiries, Chair Mielke clarified today's agenda item No. 3 regarding the executive session. It is labeled as potential/threatened litigation which is standard boilerplate language and does not mean that there is any threatened litigation. Anytime there is a discussion about legal issues that has the potential for litigation, that is an executive session item.

Chair Mielke announced that the board would adjourn to room 350 for executive session for approximately 30 minutes. Board Member Charles Wolfe would be joining the executive session discussion by phone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board adjourned to executive session at 1:45 p.m. At 2:15 p.m. an announcement was made to extend the session an additional 30 minutes. Two more announcements were made to extend the executive session.

MEETING RECONVENED

The board meeting reconvened in rooms 320/321 at the Health District at 3:28 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 06-09: Supporting the Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing

Councilmember Stark moved to approved Action Item 4.a. Resolution 06-09 Supporting the Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing; motion seconded by Board Member Jones.

Discussion and comments following the motion:

- Board Member Jones noted to the county commissioners that the second to last paragraph on page one of the resolution reads, “Whereas, to receive the additional state funding, the 4410 Joint Select Committee recommends that local governments should be required to maintain at least their current level of funding for public health.”
- Councilmember Crump commented that this resolution, if it is passed, makes a nice statement from the board to advocate for that funding.
- Councilmember Denenny said that the adoption of this resolution allows members of other jurisdictions to bring it forward to those jurisdictions and ask for their support.
- Chair Mielke, on behalf of the County Commissioners, said that of all of the jurisdictions, Spokane County is the only remaining local funder to the Health District. Additionally, Spokane County has incorporated public health funding as a priority in its legislative agenda. Two of the commissioners sit on the legislative steering committee for the Washington State Association of Counties where this was made a priority. Funding was approved for a lobbyist to specifically work public health funding issues in the legislature. This is in recognition of several years of flat and diminishing revenues that have not kept up with inflation, yet there are more mandates. Chair Mielke added that Spokane County did fulfill the entire funding request that the Board of Health and the Health District had requested from the county.
- Councilmember Verner was approached today by a citizen who was concerned about funding programs that members of the public may or may not support. She supports this resolution that addresses the legislature asking to support public health funding because it is severely underfunded. The state of Washington is 44th in the nation for per capita spending on public health. The City of Spokane passed their legislative agenda Monday and they added support for the recommendations coming out of the 4410 Joint Select Committee.

Motion: To approve Resolution 06-09 Supporting the Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing.

Motion/Second: Stark/Jones

Approved: Unanimously

Resolution 06-10: A Resolution Approving a Form of Settlement Agreement and Release with Kim Thorburn, M.D., M.P.H.

Councilmember Stark moved to approve Resolution 06-10: A Resolution Approving a Form of Settlement Agreement and Release with Kim Thorburn, M.D., M.P.H. as amended by concurrency of legal representatives of both the Board of Health and Dr. Thorburn.

Legal Counsel Wolkey said that it would be appropriate, since amendments have been made to these agreements, to ask counsel for Dr. Thorburn to put on the record that she has, in fact, had the opportunity to discuss these amendments with Dr. Thorburn and that she is agreeable to the handwritten interlineations that have been made. If the motion is to pass, two originals will be signed so that Dr. Thorburn and her counsel will have an original as well as an original in our records. Board members were requested to initial the changes.

Ms. Laurel Siddoway of Randall & Danskin, counsel to Dr. Thorburn, addressed the board. She confirmed that she and Dr. Thorburn have conferred on the interlineations to the typewritten agreement and she has telephonic approval from her client. She expects to take the signed agreements back to her office and get them signed by Dr. Thorburn today.

Motion: To Approve Resolution 06-10: A Resolution Approving a Form of Settlement Agreement and Release with Kim Thorburn, M.D., M.P.H. as amended by concurrency of legal representatives of both the Board of Health and Dr. Thorburn.

Motion/Second: Stark/Crump

Approved: Unanimously

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The meeting date for the January Board of Health meeting is scheduled one week prior to the regular meeting day on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 12:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

APPROVED: Mary B. Jensen
Board of Health Chair

Date: Jan. 18, 2007

 Marcia Olson
Recording Secretary