

**Town of Preston
Public Hearing
March 28, 2019
Preston Plains Middle School
7:30 pm**

*Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-241, the Board of selectmen call a Public Hearing at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at Preston Plains Middle School (located at 1 Route 164, Preston) to discuss joining Uncas Health District. The Board of Selectmen will also be available to answer any questions in regards to the results of the Polling Location Sub-Committee.
Board of Selectmen Dated March 7, 2019*

1st Selectman Congdon called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 pm

1st Selectman Congdon explained that historically towns could ask a doctor to be their health director but it is now a requirement that you have a Masters in Public Health.

- Preston is the only town in this area that does not belong to a health district.
- Current Health director is part time and works for the department of Health
- Department of Health says it is a conflict of interest for him to work for the State and also be Preston's part time health director.
- The State is offering an incentive for Towns to join a Health District \$15,000.00 grant. \$5,000 to the Health District and \$10,000.00 to municipality to help offset costs of joining a health district.

Patrick McCormack, Director Uncas Health District

Uncas Health District Mission Statement

to promote and protect the public's health in order to prevent illness, death and disability among its residents. The Board of Directors is comprised of 15 non-compensated members appointed by each of the member municipalities.

Patrick McCormack stated that the health district's mission is to serve communities in the areas of environmental health, health education/prevention and public health preparedness. Their services cover the health department basics and beyond, from food service licensing to immunization programs.

- Serves as the local health department for ten municipalities in Eastern Connecticut: Bozrah, Franklin, Griswold, Lebanon, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich, Salem, Sprague, and Voluntown, Connecticut.
- Services provided by the UHD include environmental health inspections, health education, public health preparedness planning, and public health nursing.
- Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.

- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
- Inform, educate, and empower people about public health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

Programs offered:

- Food Awareness and Safety Training
- Food Operators Class
- Tobacco Cessation Program
- Immunizations
- FREE Tdap Program for Seniors
- Live Well - A Health Promotion Program for Older Adults 60+
- Teen Programs

Cost:

- If Preston votes to join the district, the town would pay \$30,842.26 for services for 2019-2020. Preston currently operates its health department using part-time staff in town.
- Uncas Health District is funded by town and state per-capita contributions, as well as grants and program fees.
- Fees for Preston are similar to what the town is already spending on health services
- If the Town joins the District, they would be obligated to stay with them for two years. UHD has never had a municipality leave the district.

Questions:

Mike Clancy asked what the difference is between Ledge Light Health District and Uncas Health District

Patrick McCormack answered not a lot. Ledge Light uses L&M hospital and Uncas Health District uses Backus. They are Unioned, Uncas is non Union.

Michele Bilodeau asked if the district did regular inspections of businesses.

Patrick McCormack answered yes. Food inspections, septic, etc.

Andy Bilodeau asked do you sample water in campgrounds.

Patrick McCormack answered most campgrounds have public water supply. Uncas does a yearly inspection on campgrounds.

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier asked who is normally part of the Board and how long is the term.
Patrick McCormack usually the 1st Selectman until someone else volunteers. It is a 3 year term.

Polling Place Committee

1st Selectman Congdon asked Jack Smallwood, Chairman of the Polling Place Committee to speak to the audience about their results

J. Smallwood stated that because of the ramp, the Town Hall is not ADA compliant as a polling place, and correcting the problem would cost over \$150,000.00.

Several buildings in Town were looked at. The Committee found that Preston Plains School was found to be the best suited building.

Resident will park in the lot on the south side of the building, and enter through the south side
Partitions will be put up in order to separate the children from the voting area.

J. Smallwood noted that during the major elections in November, school is not in session so the kids will not be in the school.

1st Selectman Congdon thanked the members of the Polling Place Committee for their time and effort.
1st Selectman Congdon stated that there is a Town ordinance stating the Town Hall is the polling place, so a Town Meeting is needed to repeal that ordinance.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder