

RTM Health and Human Services Committee

Date: April 22, 2026

Meeting Date: April 21, 2026

Electronic Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Wendy Batteau, Jennifer Johnson, Karen Kramer, Ellen Lautenberg, Addison Moore

Others in attendance: Elaine Daignault, Director of Department of Health and Human Services;

Luci Bango, Director of the Aspetuck Health District, Paul Shaum and other members of the

Aspetuck Health District Board of Directors, Kevin Christie, Westport First Selectperson

Purpose:

The HHS Committee to discuss and vote on recommending to the full RTM (a) the Department of Human Services 2026-27 budget request of \$1,808,290 as approved by the Board of Finance; (b) the Aspetuck Health District's 2026-27 budget request of \$624,653, as approved by the Board of Finance.

Discussion:

- (a) After a presentation by Elaine Daignault, the Committee (and she) discussed the organization and functions of the Department, its work over the past year, programs, operations, facilities, equipment, and possible staffing needs (including the need for hiring and retaining qualified people) expected in '26 -'27, interactions with other communities, funding sources, and possibilities for action in response to the changing federal economic and social-services services. The committee expressed thanks to Ms. Daignault for the work of the Department.
- (b) After a presentation by Luci Bango, the Committee (and she) discussed the status of Health District operations noting the past year has been a time of assessment and change while continuing to fulfill its commitment to providing mandated services to the community (as well as to Weston and Easton, the two other towns in the district.) Funding, cost- and resource-sharing, facilities, staffing increases, issues related to finding staffing. It was noted that members of the Board of Finance, Town Attorney, and others would be meeting over the coming year. The committee expressed gratitude to Ms. Bango for the work of the District.

Action:

On motions by Jennifer Johnson and seconded by Addison Moore, the committee voted 5-0 (unanimously) to recommend the RTM approve both budget requests.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Batteau, Chair RTM Health and Human Services Committee