

Committee for Health Department Service Integration
Minutes and Notes of Meeting
January 7, 2008

Raeanne Presley called the meeting to order.

Attendance: TCHD Board Chairman Beth Huddleston, Branson Mayor Raeanne Presley, Taney County Health Department Director Jim Berry, City of Branson Health Director Linn Smith, City of Branson Alderman Robert McDowell, Branson Lodging Association member Linda Sprague, and TCHD Board member Janet Gard. Missouri Restaurant Association member Jerry Shakette joined shortly after the meeting was called to order.

Also in attendance were several members of the Branson Health Department, members of the City of Branson staff, and several reporters from newspapers and radio.

Raeanne thanked the committee for coming on short notice and stated she felt the committee needed to meet again prior to the City of Branson Council meeting on January 14, 2008 in order to look over the contract and the ordinance changes that would be necessary to allow the merger to take place.

Linda Sprague moved for the minutes from October 25, 2007 to be approved. It was seconded by Beth Huddleston and approved unanimously.

Linn Smith began to describe the changes that were made to the contract. She stated that in the copies that were handed out, the changes were highlighted in yellow, and if they had been printed from the e-mail that had been sent out in black and white, the changes would be highlighted in gray.

Linn continued by stating that she and Jim Berry had taken the contract to both Paul Link (Branson City Attorney) and Matt Trokey (TCHD Attorney) for review. The first highlighted change was on page 5. "We were looking for the City to be having an immediate response, if need be, maybe in helping a business get open, or if there is a problem. We had had in there 'shall trigger an inspection in one hour's time' and now it says 'shall trigger an immediate response. The process as listed above shall be followed OR any process agreed upon in writing by the Taney County Health Department Administrator and the City Administrator.' So, at least we have a process in place and if they decide there's a better way to work this, they can do it." She then clarified how the changes were to be shown on the contract by stating that the words that had lines through them were to be deleted, and the words in brackets and bolded were to be added.

Robert McDowell asked Linn if with that language it was clear to the staff that such occurrences would be considered a priority over three or four different tasks.

Linn replied that this would be when the City Administrator contacted Jim saying "We have something that has to get done," so they could effect an immediate response to something. It

doesn't mean certain priority items or whatever. They would confer, and Jim would assign someone to the task.

Robert then asked who determined whether something was time sensitive, to which Linn replied "The City Administrator."

Frank Schoneboom (City of Branson Administrator) added the following explanation: "There have been more than one occasion in our experience that we have been aware of certain entities coming open. These businesses do contact the city, as it becomes time sensitive. You can tell by the frequency of the phone calls, so we usually have good lead-time as to when these will happen. I haven't seen a situation where we are caught off guard at the eleventh hour."

Robert replied that he was just sensitive to anything that could develop an adversarial relationship when we're trying to delegate a trigger for them to respond immediately and they don't feel that it's a time sensitive issue. It would be good to make sure we have a way to resolve those kind of issues so we don't have develop any kind of negative situation staff-wise.

Jim Berry stated that in his discussions with Linn and Frank, that rather than have it state "inspection in one hour," what we would like to do was have the leeway to work with the City to develop policy and procedures without having to come back and amend this agreement. Some of the wording we did that way so that I could put things in place with the supervisor of that service to say that when you get a call, you know to respond thusly.

At this point, Jerry Shakette (Missouri Restaurant Association member) joined the meeting and Raeanne quickly brought him up to date on what he had missed. Jerry apologized for being late.

The next change on the agreement was on page 6. The following phrase was added: "The process as listed in below steps a) through e) shall be followed OR any process agreed upon in writing by the Taney County Health Department Administrator and the Branson City Administrator."

The committee made no comment about the change, so Linn moved on to the next change on page 9, section G. The change made was to remove the first option, as the City of Branson had agreed to accept what was the second option concerning Animal Control and ARVZC functions. The new second paragraph of the section was changed to read "TCHD shall also provide general animal control services for the city under this agreement. This option provides that ARVZC functions are not split, and are transferred to TCHD. TCHD shall provide both the public health aspects (as listed above in section a.) and shall continue to provide the CITY with all the animal control functions (as currently provided) as follows:"

At this point, Linn discovered that she had proposed to remove the "above in section a," and stated she would insert the section below and reword the paragraph to fit.

Raeanne asked about the Animal Control options that were in the contract, and Beth Huddleston replied that the City chose the second option, and this change was the response to that choice.

Raeanne then asked Jim if he was okay with taking over the Animal Control for the City. Jim replied that he was okay with it as long as it was identified as a special section of this agreement, and he was not offering it to “every political subdivision in the county,” as TCHD does not provide this service for the county in general or any of the other towns in the county. TCHD will continue to provide animal bite investigation to the county, but not general animal control.

No other comments or changes were suggested to this portion of the contract. Linn then moved on to Page 13, and the addition of the following verbiage:

“Section IX, Reports.

A. TCHD shall provide annual reports to the City.

B. TCHD shall provide other reports and presentations as necessary to inform City Council on issues of importance concerning public health and welfare of the City.”

Robert asked if Linn thought it would be in the best interests of the City decision makers to have an oral report on a yearly basis.

Linn responded that it was phrased in this manner to allow them (the City Council) to decide how it should be presented to them. Certain reported items, such as the epidemiology reports would not necessarily require an oral report, but others would.

Robert said that the benefit of an oral report would be to keep public health at the top of everyone’s minds, as well as to allow people to ask questions about the report.

Raeanne asked if there was a certain time of year when TCHD “wrapped up” for the year, and when an annual report would be available to the City.

Jim replied that he was required to make an annual report to his Board by March 1 about the prior year.

Robert asked if he would have a problem having the two reports coincide.

Jim replied that having the reports coincide would not be a problem. He also stated that there are also monthly reports available, and he had spoken to Frank about making the monthly reports he (Frank) was interested in available to him in either PowerPoint or hard copy.

Raeanne asked if Robert thought the language as it existed would suffice.

Robert said that he was concerned about it being an option. If it were specified that it would be an oral report, as when he came in and gave a presentation, people would be required to become engaged and have a better understanding of what was going on, and respect the work that you’ve done.

Jim responded that he had no problem giving an annual oral report to the City.

Robert then asked if Frank had any problems with it. Frank replied that it was fine, and continued by stating that he and Jim had already put in a reporting system, and that he felt the Board needed to be kept informed.

Robert said he thought it really did need to be an oral presentation, at least for the first few years. Jim agreed, saying that with an oral report, it put responsibilities on both parties that at least one time a year you're going to talk.

Linn said that she would change the verbiage to "TCHD shall provide annual reports to the City and oral presentations to Council and the citizens on or before March 1 of each year."

Robert stated that he had no problem with not naming a specific deadline and leaving it to the City Administrator and the TCHD Administrator.

Linn said, "Date to be determined."

As no further discussion was involved, the committee moved on to Section XI, which had an added paragraph "C." Linn read the new paragraph for the committee. "By the approval and passage of this contract, and upon taking oath, the City hereby appoints the TCHD Administrator the Health Officer for the City of Branson, with all powers and duties to administer the Health Ordinances of the City of Branson, including those state statutes, rules, regulations or TCHD ordinances, as pertain to the public's health within the corporate limits of the City of Branson."

There was no discussion of this addition, and the committee went to the next change, which was the addition of paragraph "C" in section XIII.

Linn read the new paragraph, "All appendices included in this original agreement are hereby made part and parcel of the total agreement."

The committee read through the appendix.

Beth Huddleston asked Jim if they had gone through the costs in the Board of Trustees meeting earlier in the month.

Jim replied that they had, and he was under the impression that they "were going to have another meeting with Raeanne, Bob and Frank about how they wanted it shown. At one time there was a communication that we didn't want to necessarily show just a declining amount committed to it. This is the way Linn and I just put it in, when we first started talking about a five-year plan where it would be an alternate to the current funding policy or process."

Robert stated he felt that the agreement should leave plenty of "wiggle room" by stating that this is just an estimate or something along those lines.

Jim replied that the agreement does state that the figures would be reviewed annually and subject to change.

Raeanne then stated that the agreement had some vague language on the funding portion, but she didn't think it would be a good idea to put an amount in the table that was less than it was actually going to cost.

Beth agreed with Raeanne, stating she didn't see how if the services were going to cost \$800,000 the first year, she didn't see how the same services would be accomplished with only \$200,000 five years from now.

Robert added in "Whatever the cost is, that's what it is, based on your experience and best judgment. I wouldn't worry so much about what it looked like, but what it really is."

Jim replied that one of the committee's comments earlier on was that they didn't want to present this plan to the public as a reduction of services.

Robert said that he was concerned of that perception. We had been working under the assumption that there is probably a cost benefit of merging the two health departments, but we don't know that for a fact, nor do we know how much that benefit might be. We have also talked about the expansion of the responsibilities that we are going to have regulated to us, plus the additional responsibilities that we want to take on that we are currently unable to handle due to limited of funding or staff. "I just want to make sure that whatever we put out there in numbers that we tell the whole story in what we're trying to do in order to grow and improve our health department to meet the responsibilities and requirements of the public."

Raeanne asked that the committee review the specific language of the agreement's funding arrangements. Jim then directed the committee to page 4, section V, subsection A.

After reading, Raeanne mentioned that after the end of the second year, the agreement simply states that both parties agreeing in writing could change the agreement.

Jim replied that we wanted to operate two years with a guaranteed amount. One of the original thoughts was that the Director would be responsible for coming back to the City of Branson every year and presenting the plan for the next year. I still feel comfortable with that. Unless we can change the funding mechanism, there will have to be a continued support from the City of Branson through general revenues. We said we would be committed to looking at the process of getting alternative funding, but we needed some history to show to the public. Right now, all we could say is "We spent X number of dollars this year, and you spent X number of dollars." That's what we're taking to go forward with this process.

Robert noted that it's almost easier to go forward since we have a budgeted amount. What becomes a little more problematic to me is down the road, you're in a position to negotiate on behalf of Taney County, and we'll have a representative from the City, what kind of organizational oversight or third party assessment could we put together to keep ourselves from developing an adversarial relationship? How do we resolve the differences that crop up?

Beth said that currently the services provided within the city and the county at this time are not the same, and that it was TCHD's goal to make them the same across the county in the next few

years. During that time, if we got the funding for Taney County Health Department to do all the services throughout the county as they should be done, there would be no need for the City to support the Health department.

Jim continued by stating “I don’t want to be presumptuous here. The easiest thing for us [TCHD] would be to put in a figure that I know can work. I know for a fact I can make next year work and I have done a three year forecast, and using \$800,000 with my anticipated cost of living increases, consumer price index, the workload that we project and the increased tax base – we do get some increase out of that each year – and I know I can make it work three years for at \$800,000. Whether you can make it work five years on \$800,000 or not I can’t say. To be comfortable, to pencil in a figure, and say that after two years, which is what we tried to say, that we would be able to sit down as a group, and that to me falls back to mine and Frank’s responsibility of looking at that operation. He’s representing you and I’m representing our board. If there needs to be a discussion, then the representatives of the two boards, however y’all want to do that, to sit down and look and see if you want to continue with this funding, or look at different funding.”

Robert replied, stating, “The decision making falls back to your Board of Directors. What I’m unclear on is how we participate with your Board of Directors on down the road.”

Raeanne added, “That’s one of the things that we were going to talk about, Bob. Linn and I talked about this task force; the agreement calls it a ‘transition task force’ on page one. It’s two people, and right now that’s Frank and Jim. I guess my question there is that doesn’t sound like a task force to me, that sounds like two representatives. So I wanted more input on what you’re talking about, Bob. But I guess we also need to get past this. My question is if Jim’s not comfortable with these numbers, why are they in here?”

Jim replied that we had to put some numbers in there.

Linn added in that on Page 13, Number VIII, number E. Branson City realizes that the projected growth in our area will have an impact on TCHD’s services and funding, and will make every effort to help procure adequate funding.

Raeanne said “My concern is that ratcheting the funding down so quickly in years three, four and five pushes the health department into asking for an increase in the tax levy increase, and I don’t know if that’s our intent. It’s not my intent.”

She continued by saying, “You might come to us and say ‘We could provide these additional services and we’d like your support for a levy increase’, or ‘The cost of fuel and labor has gone up substantially, and even with \$800,000 we can’t make it work any more.’

Beth replied “But once there is equitable services provided to the whole county, then the City of Branson should not be footing the bill for Taney County Health Department. The county should foot the bill.”

Linn added that TCHD is required to do certain level of what the City Health Department currently does.

Beth continued by stating, “When we [the TCHD] get our standards to meet the same ones that you have, we ought to be funding ourselves. We shouldn’t depend on cities for our funding. We are going to be providing for Forsyth and Hollister the same services.”

Jim said that it doesn’t take a very deep study to look at the tax structure of Taney County. “Right now we’re supported by a property tax on both real and personal property taxes, countywide. Seventy Five percent of those tax dollars come from the western side of the county, whether you’re talking about sales tax or property tax. It doesn’t matter which way you talk about it, the numbers are the same. We realize the residents that property that live on this side of the county is paying 75% of our taxes. If we had a sales tax, a similar percentage would be coming from sales tax. The need for additional money has always been there. Fifteen years ago the City of Branson stepped up and said ‘We feel like, for our environment, we need to add monies to public health and we’re going to do it through our ordinances and we’re going to pay for it through general revenue.’ Again, taxes generated on this side of the county. Now, the way we justify that in our mind is that 75% of our work is done on the western side of the county because of the population and the number of restaurants and other businesses. So if we need additional funding, it needs to come from this side of the county. Whether it comes from general revenue, tax dollars, or whatever.”

Raeanne asked for clarification. “So, what you’re saying is if we went for a levy increase and pulled money back out from the general revenue, it’s a tax, it’s a tax, it’s a tax.”

Jim agreed by saying “It’s the same people that are going to be paying it. It costs in excess of three million dollars a year to provide the level of services that we are jointly providing today. You’ve been providing \$8 - \$900,000 of that, and we’ve been providing \$2.0 - \$2.2 million.”

Raeanne said “And if we took all of our \$800,000 tomorrow and took it all away, and closed down the department, you’d have to find it.”

Jim agreed that the TCHD would have to make some terrific adjustments. He continued by stating “The administration from the City of Branson has been very careful not to let that happen. When we first started talking about this, the implication was that they did not want this [merger] to appear that they were trying to reduce their monetary support for public health.”

Raeanne asked, “Having made those statements, then what are you comfortable putting in here, Jim? I realize that at the end of year two in reality we will probably have to renegotiate.”

Jim answered by saying that the logical thing from an operational standpoint would be to take what the City had currently been spending with whatever adjustments should be made to pro-rate it and the administrative adjustments. “That’s how we came up with the \$800,000 necessary for year two. We took the current \$912,000 from this years budget and pulled out the administrative costs that we wouldn’t duplicate.”

Raeanne then asked Beth if she was saying that she felt like there ought to be a point in this that the Taney County Board of Health will say “Time for there to be an equitable...”

Beth interrupted by saying “Absolutely.”

Jim continued by saying “What we’d like to see is that at some point in the future there would be a designated supplement from the City of Branson, as opposed to now when you are significantly funding the department.”

Raeanne then asked “How do we get, as a joint task force and going forward, what number in years three, four and five do you see that to be a reality?”

Robert added in “No matter what number you put in there, moving forward, even the best faith effort on this, and we can put a number in there, we really need a way to stay on top of this communiqué and adjust accordingly to put our best guess forward. I think that after this first year we’re going to learn so much, we’ll have a lot better opportunity to fill in the blanks. This first year, I challenge Jim to come up with the best number he can, knowing that there could be a pretty good discrepancy there until we know what we’re actually dealing with.”

Linda Sprague asked if the numbers for years three, four, and five were really necessary.

Linn spoke up and said “We could put ‘To Be Negotiated’ in these three and put in the second report the financial reviews.”

Robert replied “As tough as it is, I still think we have to put our best faith effort to putting a number in there, because a number is significant enough where it drives a lot of what we have as responsibilities as a budget.”

Linda said, “I understand that we would need to know approximately or have some definition of this, but I don’t really see the importance of this whole table. It’s not telling us the way it is, if you put \$800,000 all the way through, it seems to me your problem is the decreasing amount, and I’m sure he’s got his reasons, but it’s not explained here.”

Robert stated that a lot of this document is our faith in these two individuals putting together this plan.

Linda answered by stating “But the thing about it is, Bob that they’re both governed by a Board, it’s not just the two of them doing this. I guess I’m just not seeing it.”

Raeanne then asked Beth what she would like to see in the table.

Beth said she would like to either see \$800,000 across the board or nothing for years three, four, and five, and in five years then we will go back and have a statement like “the City of Branson realizes that the projected growth of our area will impact Taney County Health Department’s services and funding, and will make every effort to help TCHD procure adequate funding.”

Sandra Williams, Branson City Alderperson spoke up to address the committee. "I'm sorry, I'm really confused here. I agree, he's right. 75-80% of the expenses come from this side of the county. I understand that. We're already being taxed. 75-80% of taxes come from this area. And then we're going to turn around and pay \$800,000 to a million every year, and double tax our citizens? We're going to make them pay the City and the County? I thought the whole idea of this was to eventually get out of doing that. Was I wrong?"

Linn replied by saying that there were a couple of points to it. "One is that Jim and I have been very careful over the last ten years that we're not duplicating services. So what 'A' is being taxed for and what 'B' is being taxed for is not the same thing. The cost is at least three million dollars to do a full complement of public health services, both the environmental and the general public health. We do not know what the growth of the convention center or of the airport is going to bring so that's an unknown right off the top. We're hoping to reduce some of the costs by combining management, so that we don't start double stacking everybody and really duplicating services and functions. So there is a built in savings there, and we do know that animal control functions, the certain ones that are the City's, not necessarily public health's, will probably at a minimum run the City \$200,000 per year."

Sandra asked if this was outside of the \$800,000 the agreement called for.

Linn replied that right now, that money was included, and that was why the \$200,000 continued on year five. We know that that is an absolute minimum. We don't know what's going to happen on years three and four.

Raeanne said that her fear was that TCHD would come back and say "We don't have the appropriate funding to continue this contract, good luck;" or we push you into putting a levy increase on the ballot, and we all know that taxes aren't popular. "I think Sandra was saying that she thought it was different than that, and she's going to vote on that. But Sandra, the bottom line is that if you make this too low and they can't provide the service, then you're going to spend that amount of money and it's going to be right back here in City Hall."

Sandra replied that she understood that. "I guess that was part of my concern. Maybe I didn't voice it quite right. My concern was that we were letting them take it over, to where we wouldn't be involved in it, after so many years. Whether that's 5 years or 70."

Jim replied that that was still the plan.

Raeanne replied that that was the quandary, is nobody knows when the time would be right. "When would the time be right so that we could make the tax system make sense? As you say, be more equitable across the county."

Jim said, "We're not disagreeing on this."

Beth added that ideally, "the health department that's been established in this county, functions as it's own entity. And when it is funding itself and providing its services across the county it shouldn't have to answer to the City of Forsyth, or the City of Branson, or anybody else. Unless

you want ordinances that you come up yourself, then you come up with a whole different department, which is what you did fifteen years ago.”

Raeanne brought the question back to what to put onto the table of the appendix by asking if they should just put \$800,000 across the board and state that at the end of the five years it’s our understanding that Taney county will work for independent funding during that time?

Jim said that he would be comfortable putting \$800,000 in for the first and second years, and a statement that at the end of the second year the financial portion of the contract would be renegotiated.

Robert said “And then to review it annually by whoever the decision making body is to make sure that both sides are in agreement.”

Jim replied that no money would be paid until the City Council appropriates it. It would be his job to discuss with whomever is in Frank's chair to give the City whatever information necessary to justify the expenditure. He continued by saying that this would not be any kind of surprise to Frank because they had already discussed at least monthly to quarterly meetings to show him what the Health Department was doing and how the money was being spent. Those figures will be readily available, as they were available to the TCHD Board every month. Jim restated that he was more comfortable with making the case every year rather than waiting five years and trying to work it out all at once at that time.

Raeanne asked if years three, four, and five were mentioned prior to this section in the document.

City Attorney Paul Link responded by saying that other than the fact that the agreement was a five-year agreement, there was no mention of funding for the agreement other than in this section, and as such, there would be no problem with remaking the funding decision on a yearly basis for the last three years of the agreement.

Robert said that he liked the idea, as it was a portion of what Linda had spoken of, as well as getting the accountability partnerships in place to try to move forward to the ultimate goal of a self sufficient Health Department capable of meeting its responsibilities at the level of service that the City of Branson would desire.

Raeanne said that the ultimate goal in her mind was to be able to reach both the equitable services and taxation across the county. She went on to say that she understood what Sandra was saying, they did not want to keep going as they were, paying for it for several years until the City was paying two and a half million dollars because no one had taken the steps necessary to make it a fairer system, but recognizing the correct time to put up the necessary levy increase would be critical.

Robert agreed, saying that the Health Department levy takes care of the countywide distribution of the funding of the department.

Raeanne asked if the committee agreed to remove the numbers from the table for years three, four, and five, and to make the necessary changes to the wording for the funding of the agreement to be determined on an annual basis.

Jim spoke up and said that the reason that he and Linn had wanted at least a five year agreement was so that the merged departments would have a chance to work long enough to have some history, without either the City or the Health Board cutting it off without it having a chance to work through the growing pains.

Linn asked Jim if it would be better to put in \$800,000 in years three through five as a minimum commitment, as the amounts could already, per the agreement be renegotiated after the second year. The other option would be to put in "To be negotiated" in those years, and to work it out as it came along.

Raeanne and Jim both agreed that negotiating for the final three years would be more tenuous, but it would also ensure open communication between the two parties.

The committee determined to go with the final years to be listed as "To be negotiated," and Paul Link agreed to assist with the rewording of the necessary points of the agreement.

Janet Gard noted that on the third and thirteenth pages, the agreement noted "Linnea Smith" by name, as opposed to her job title. The committee decided to change the wording to be in line with contract law.

Raeanne then brought up that on page one, the document talks about the City naming two persons to a transition task force, and asked if anyone saw a role for the current task force, as the day to day issues would be dealt with between Jim and Frank.

Jim said that this portion stemmed from quite some time back, as a way for the City to have some say in how the merger would take place, and said that Robert had been in favor of it.

Robert said that he just wanted to have a place where anyone would be able to go with their grievances to be fairly heard, so that it could be dealt with before it becomes a problem that could undermine the ability of the department to properly function.

Beth asked if Robert was thinking of something other than the TCHD Board meeting once a month.

Robert replied that would not necessarily be the case, so long as the board understood and accepted that responsibility. The only problem would be that they might have to put themselves in the City's shoes to make sure that the decision-making was balanced. He continued by saying that he didn't know what the possible issues might be, but he wanted to make sure that everyone had a way to air their concerns.

Linn said that this section was put in for two reasons. One was give the City some ability that they needed, whether it was as a member at large or something like that. The second portion is

on the policy guidance, and not just for internal policies. Let's say that the City wants to do an ordinance for this happening or that happening. Those kinds of policy issues as well.

Robert said he was okay with it. If the County takes and accepts the responsibility, and gets the levy change or however it would be funded, Branson would be just another city in it's jurisdiction and it would all be in the course of business just like all the others.

Jim said that he thought he understood what some people were saying. That there is a certain comfort level in there being a named person that could be a counsel and that the Board recognizes that if a question comes up about a possible policy that has an effect more on the City of Branson than the rest of the county, how is that going to be discussed with the Board. Before it came to the City Council. Are we comfortable with Frank, or a person Frank designates on his staff would be the person somebody would come to in order to discuss policy or employee issues?

Frank added to what Jim was saying that for a number of reasons, one would be communication and two would be to get that comfort level and three would be to get that accountability partner at least for two years, there would still be a level of involvement from us. He and Jim would probably end up having the detailed interactions, but of course if there were some issue that the City would have, either a member of the Aldermen or he would go to address that to the Board.

Robert said that the reason that he was sensitive to this was "he'd had to do deals like this before, and everybody sits around a table and everybody thinks that they are all on the same page, but then when you get down to the meat and potatoes of business, things come up. So we'd go to Jim with a complaint, and he needs to have a way to protect himself too. If he goes to Frank, and gets the Aldermen involved, we'd have a lot of decision makers involved in process, and I'm just trying to say that whatever the system is that we're going to agree upon following, we're not inadvertently going around somebody and getting all the politics stuff going. I'm just going to assume that things are going to pop up and we're going to have to discuss them and we'll have to empower a group to do that, either the Board of Directors or this group of individuals that can help protect everybody in this process or the accountability partners "

Jim replied by asking how comfortable the current committee members would be on continuing to meet to be the transition group. He went on to say that the group would not have to meet regularly, but if an issue were to come up, that Frank, or Raeanne or himself could call for a meeting to get the members together to see what everyone's opinion was.

Beth added that it would be helpful to continue the current members in the new role because they would not have to bring anyone new up to speed on what had happened up to this point.

Robert said that he would like to try to have the meetings at least quarterly to keep potential problems to a minimum.

Raeanne clarified that the current task force would be kept together and meet quarterly.

Linn said that it would probably be a good thing as the current group of people would probably be the same ones that she would call for any other kind of problems concerning public health.

Bob said that as far as the reporting goes, it wouldn't really be necessary after the alternate funding was in place to have the reporting to be a requirement.

Jim replied that it actually was a help to the TCHD, as one of the standards for accreditation was to keep the elected officials informed and involved in public health. This would provide the required documentation of going to meetings and involving the Board of Aldermen, the County Commissioners, as other political entities in the county on a regular basis.

Sandra Williams spoke up from the audience, stating that the meetings should not be limited to only the transition term of two years, but continue on for as long as the City was investing any funds into a political entity not under its direct control. "I believe, and Frank and Paul can be correcting me in this, but I believe that our auditors, when they audit us, are going to want us to be involved in the sense of some sort of control. Any funds that we ever give out to anybody, the Chamber or anybody, they want us to have not only the reports that you say you're going to need to give, I think this committee needs to stay active in that until you transition to the end. It might be quarterly, or even every six months towards the last year or two but I believe that it needs to be active."

Frank also spoke, agreeing with Alderperson Williams. "As long as there is a flow of money, we have to have some kind of control mechanism in place to be able to account for those funds. Number two would be as we move forward; there may be a lessening and ultimately a dissolving of this group. At what point that takes place, I'm not clear on that yet but I agree with you there.

Raeanne said, "So maybe we should take out for how many years and just say 'for the duration of the agreement.'

It was agreed that the paragraph would be reworded to keep the current task force in place and that it would meet on a quarterly basis or more often as required for the duration of the agreement.

The resolution to be put before the Council and the TCHD Board was read by the task force members. Jerry Shakette moved to approve the resolution, and Linda Sprague seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously, and the original was signed by all members present to be presented. The signature of Anne Davy would be received at a later date, prior to the resolution being presented to the Branson Board of Aldermen.

It was determined that the Branson Board of Aldermen would have its first reading of the agreement on the 14th of January, the TCHD Board would approve the agreement at its meeting on the 23rd of January, and the final reading and approval of the agreement would occur on the 28th of January.

The committee adjourned the meeting.