

Councillor Preusser stated that she was deeply concerned to learn that up until the departure of the previous Health Commissioner, the Hospital Director was in charge of only the Housekeeping and Dietary Departments of the Hospital and hoped that has been corrected.

Both Ms. Kenny and Dr. Chalfen stated that they believed it had been and the hospital was currently operating on a previously used table of organization which expanded the duties and responsibilities of the Hospital Director.

Councillor Vellucci stated that past commissioners became too involved in running the hospital when they should have been concerning themselves with various health issues which could affect the entire community. He further stated that the new commissioner should go out to the various neighborhoods and elderly centers to discuss health care and programs for the elderly, the sick or infirmed and he should also confer regularly with the Superintendent of Schools to establish training programs for high school students.

Councillor Preusser stated that the new Commissioner should also inform the Council reguarly on new laws, rules and regulations and any problems relative to water and air pollution.

Dr. Near stated that a new commissioner should possess the ability of securing federal money for various programs for the hospital.

Councillor Vellucci stated that a massive public relations campaign should be undertaken for the selection of a new Commissioner including a public service announcement by WGBH and advertisement in all local newspapers including the Harvard Crimson/Boston Globe/Herald American/Cambridge Chronicle and consideration should be given to the utilization of billboards.

Councillor Preusser stated that, for the record, she thought Councillor Vellucci has shown creativity as Chairman of the Committee and felt he should be commended for his work.

At this time on a motion by Councillor Vellucci and seconded by Councillor Preusser the Committee agreed to have the Deputy City Clerk notify the City Manager of their request to have the Manager appropriate the necessary money to purchase new equipment for the Radiology Department in order to make it fully operational as soon as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 P. M.

For the Committee,

Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci
Chairman

City of Cambridge

In City Council.....

The City Council **Committee** on Health and Hospitals, comprised of Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci, Chairman, Mary Ellen Preusser and Walter Sullivan, held a meeting of the Committee on Monday, July 9, 1979 at 6 P. M.

~~to which~~

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss with the screening committee of the Health Policy Board the selection process for and the qualifications of a new Health Commissioner.

Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Chairman of the Health Policy Board, stated that Dr. Robert Near, Dr. Mack, Elsa Stern, Oliver Farnum, Mr. Echevarria and Dr. deFillippi comprise the screening committee. He further stated that the screening committee had already met to discuss what type of philosophy the new Health Commissioner should have and it was the intent of the screening committee to discuss this with the Committee on Health and Hospitals. He further stated that the screening committee intends to advertise in the national medical/professional journals by the end of the month and plans to interview potential candidates during the month of August.

At this point, Dr. Near stated that he had changed his earlier position regarding the type of individual who should be selected for the position of Health Commissioner. He further stated that he previously believed a medical doctor should hold the position but now is of the firm belief that the position should be held by an experienced public health administrator.

Reports,

Mr. Farnum stated that he too felt a public health administrator should be hired who's responsibilities would include community involvement on health issues such as the neighborhood health centers, but who would not be responsible for the day to day administrative operation at the hospital. He stated that that kind of involvement is unnecessary since these duties should be performed by the Hospital Director.

Ms. Stern stated that she too felt strongly that a public health administrator would be the best type of person provided he or she would give attention to the overall health care concerns of the community. She stated that this was not done in the past.

Dr. Chalfen stated that one of the biggest problems facing both committees was one of stabilization of the administrative structure at the hospital.

Councillor Vellucci questioned if it was the intent of the Health Policy Board to have the new Health Commissioner work closely with them and the Hospital Board Room.

Dr. Chalfen responded by stating that that was correct since the ordinance called for that kind of interaction with the Policy Board and the Hospital Board is a sub-committee of the Policy Board.

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REPORT

S-471

Committee on Health and Hospitals
Meeting held July 9, 1979 re: selection process for and the qualifications of a new Health Commissioner.

In City Council,
September 10, 1979

9/10/79

Report Accepted
Placed on File