

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JULY 21, 2020



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Town Council previously directed staff to research public health departments, with specific consideration of forming a municipal health agency.

Douglas County, on July 8th, made the decision to withdraw from Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) to form its own County health agency

Following discussion includes:

- Summary Findings
- Statutory overview
- Colorado health department overview including TCHD
- Estimated budget impact
- Next steps/considerations

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SUMMARY FINDINGS

FORMATION

Colorado Revised Statutes provide for the formation of County, District or Municipal Health Agencies

COLORADO HEALTH AGENCIES

There are no municipally operated health departments in Colorado, except for select city/county entities (i.e. Broomfield)

AUTHORITY

Local health agencies remain under the authority of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

BUDGET IMPACT

Douglas County contributes \$7.10 per person to TCHD to support public health services

Based on review of Broomfield Public Health, annual operating costs are \$3 million; or \$41.72 per resident

An additional revenue source would need to be identified to fund municipal health department operations and capital needs – estimated 4 to 5 mills

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SUMMARY FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATION

- Staff does not recommend that Town Council at this point pursue asking voters for a mill levy increase to support a Town health department, rather Town staff recommends that both Town Council and staff appropriately engage - through discussions with Douglas County Commissioners and staff - in the Douglas County formation of a Douglas County Health Department. This participation could include seeking appropriate Town representation in a new Douglas County Health Department
- Next steps: Pursue discussions with Douglas County as they establish a new health department to include representation of Town and Town interests