

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021, 3:30 pm
59 Main Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Bob Osley, Chair, Member Liz Kugler; Vice Chair Jeffrey Zgrodnik; Charlie Kaniecki of the Board of Health; Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief and School Nurse Jean Hobbie

CALL TO ORDER Chair Osley called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM Robert Flaherty, Fire Chief presented before the Board. He explained that it was his understanding, after reading the new set of guidelines for use of the ARPA funds, that the funds could not be used for COVID tracing. It may not be an eligible expense and he does not want the Board to be scrambling in the future to find out how to pay for the MAVEN monitoring if in fact it turns out that COVID tracing is not an eligible expense under the ARPA guidelines. The Board thanked the Chief for his insight on the guidelines.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Member Jeffrey Zgrodnik made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 9, 2021, Member Liz Kugler seconded, all in favor, aye, minutes approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1: Rescind Vote: Chair Osley reminded the Board that at the start of FY22 there was no money set aside for MAVEN monitoring. To help pay for at least an interim COVID coordinator, Members Kugler and Zgrodnik voted to give up 25% of their stipend at the June 30, 2021 meeting. Since then funding has become available through a federal grant. Member Kugler moved to rescind the vote of June 30, 2021 to reduce their stipend by 25% for the fiscal year to balance the budget for MAVEN monitoring, Vice Chairperson Jeffrey Zgrodnik seconded, all in favor, aye, motion rescinded.

TOPIC 2: Scheduling Title V inspections: Chair Osley informed the Board that there have been quite a few Title V inspections this fall. As far as he could see, the system of scheduling and payment is working.

TOPIC 3: COVID Update: As Claudia Sarti did not receive an invitation to the meeting, Charlie Kaniecki, Health Agent spoke on her behalf. He reiterated that there was only one case in the past week. He told the Board that the case load in Hatfield is relatively low and preventing the spread seems to be working. Member Kugler updated the Board about the schools. School Nurse Jean Hobbie informed the Board that there has been quite a bit of testing. The National Guard is helping out with the testing. Jean Hobbie, School Nurse informed the Board the most recent situation showed six positive cases, most of which were unrelated. Three cases are in one

household, the other 3 were independent of each other. Nurse Hobbie informed the Board that we spent the weekend identifying close contacts using DPH 6 feet, 15 minutes cumulative. Nurse Hobbie thanked Member Kugler for her help to get them started. We did all the tests on Monday and they were negative. Since August, we managed several COVID cases, some of which were not in the schools. We managed 13 positive cases, five were fully vaccinated. All five persons were required to follow the ten-day isolation protocol. In addition to that, we have continued to do the pool testing. As of the end of October, there are a few people remote, 272 enrolled for weekly pooled testing, an increase from the spring which was 201. Vice Chairperson asked how much is the percentage of pool testing. Nurse Hobbie responded about 55%, there are just over 420 students plus 100 staff. Member Kugler informed the Board that she was contacted with Alison Szych who wanted to know about basketball regulations. Member Kugler emailed the DPH who said there is no regulation on how many people can be in the gym or how close. There is still an indoor mask recommendation. School masking has been extended to January 15, 2022. We don't have 80% as of yet. The superintendent will check into some regulations. There is no guideline to ask teachers and staff for vaccinated status.

TOPIC 4: Mask Use: Chair Osley stated that the Board of Health did not pursue a mask mandate. Member Kugler informed the Board that the Town is still doing very well and that she did not believe a mask mandate for indoors was required at this time. If individual businesses want an indoor mask mandate, they are free to do so and to put up a sign stating so.

TOPIC 5: Tick, WNV, EEE disease updated: Charlie Kaniecki informed the Board that this has been quiet. Since we have had a frost it will disappear.

TOPIC 6: Shared services with Hampshire County communities for monitoring MAVEN, tracing, etc.: Chair Osley informed the Board that at this point we are filling out the needs assessment figuring out what our current assets are. We are waiting this to actually have a specific need fulfilling duty for Hatfield.

TOPIC 7: DPH/DESE guidelines: Chair Osley said that the Board has discussed this topic and that this is another source of consideration and hopefully most guidelines will overlap so definite policies can be made. Member Kugler said that DPH/DESE are working hand-in-hand and that MIA has not set guidelines for their winter sports but that practices start November 29th.

TOPIC 8: Body Art regulation/fees: Charlie Kaniecki reminded the Board that he sent information to the Board in the past. He suggested getting rid of the Social Security number on the application, adding a line for email addresses. Also there should be a requirement that asks for three reference and CORI check. The executive assistant requested the Board to set the fee for the body art permit. Member Kugler made a motion to adopt the regulations as set by Charlie Kaniecki; Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved. Member Kugler made a motion to increase the license fee from \$50.00 to \$200.00, Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik seconded, all in favor, aye, motion approved.

TOPIC 9: Sharps budget: Chair Osley told the Board that the Sharps program has seen success. The cost of shipping has increased. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik also told the Board that there has been a large spike in usage. The bad part is the containers for shipping is very costly.

Mr. Kaniecki told the Board that he does not know of any outside funding to pay for this. Chair Osley will discuss with the Town Administrator to see if there are sources of funding.

TOPIC 10: Update on any pending actions: Chair Osley told the Board that as of now there are no pending actions.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS: Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik informed the Board that the State Highway Department has taken it upon themselves to treat the overpasses in the mornings because of the fog. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik just wanted people to know what's going on.

CONTINUED OLD BUSINESS: Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik asked if anyone has heard back from Mr. Genovese about the leaking roof at the Hatfield Elementary School. Mr. Kaniecki told the Board that it was his understanding that the DPW director was going to talk to the Superintendent. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik will call Mr. Genovese to get a status on the leaking roof.

ADJOURN: Member Liz Kugler made a motion to adjourn at 4:19 p.m. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik seconded, all in favor, aye, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant