

Approved February 10, 2022

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 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; Michael Wood, Jean Hobbie, School Nurse and Doc Pruyne, The Reminder

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

PUBLIC FORUM Doc Pruyne of The Reminder asked Chair Osley who the contact person is for Hatfield. Chair Osley informed Mr. Pruyne that Northampton Board of Health is handling all matters regarding COVID. If you have questions, you can contact the Hatfield Board of Health, Hatfield Fire Chief or Hatfield Select Board regarding regulations or changes in regulations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Member Kugler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 9, 2021; November 15, 2021; and December 7, 2021, Vice Chairperson Jeffrey Zgrodnik seconded, all in favor, aye, minutes approved.

POSTED BUSINESS

TOPIC 1: COVID-19 Update: Chair Osley informed everyone that the weekly numbers came through on Wednesday from the Northampton Board of Health. The numbers were a couple of days later than when we used to get them. This is the first go around with Northampton and the personnel is overwhelmed right now and because tracers and monitors from Northampton did not have it in their protocol as to what days and times to give us the numbers. Northampton stated that Mondays are very hectic, and they would not be able to give out numbers, but that Wednesdays are better. The data for Hatfield this last week was 4 cases in the same household. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik agreed that Mondays are tough days and he reminded everyone that most holidays fall on a Monday. Chair Osley said the plan is to collect the data from Monday to Sunday night but report it out to the public on Wednesday. We want to keep communications open. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik told everyone that nothing is changing except when the code red call goes out. Chair Osley informed the Board that we noticed that Townspeople look for those numbers on a weekly basis. We don't know if the numbers change behavior, but we know that people are interested in those numbers. By not having those numbers on Monday, Town Hall was fielding calls as to why the numbers were not out on Monday. There was discussion as to who the contact person would be to get the numbers from Northampton and Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik mentioned that it would probably be quicker to just give the numbers to Chief Flaherty. Member Kugler mentioned she saw an article in Masslive today, a statement from Dr. Kerouac that Baystate is overcapacity by 20%. Department of Public Health had a

meeting on December 14th about omicron and there are 16 cases in Massachusetts: 10 female, 6 male, 5 full vaccinated 1 with booster. Delta remains predominate at 97%. Please be careful when gathering. We had a vaccine clinic on December 4th for 5-11 year old and there were 32 kids. The people from Northampton were professional and did a great job with the kids. The school department did an excellent job. Kindergarten teacher Tim brought his guitar and played for the kids. It was awesome! It was a great success. Chair Osley said Principal Driscoll was there as well which made the kids and parents feel welcome. There is a follow-up clinic on December 27, 2021 from 9:00 to 12:00.

TOPIC 2: Annual License Renewals: After reviewing the memorandum of annual list of license renewals, Member Kugler made a motion to accept the memorandum for annual license renewals for 2022, Vice Chairperson seconded, all in favor aye, motion approved. There was general discussion between the difference between a motel and a hotel.

TOPIC 3: 7 Pantry Road Septic Inspection Failure: The matter has been resolved. Chair Osley just waiting for permits.

TOPIC 4: Northampton Health Department MOU Status: Chair Osley informed the Board that since the official transition, things are still being ironed out as far as protocols. Communications are open and information is being shared appropriately. I appreciate both people from Town Departments as well as the general public being patient and flexible as a lot of this is being worked out. Chair Osley is hoping that by next week there will be a timeframe when Townspeople can receive the code red information. Member Kugler asked who will the City of Northampton contact with the numbers? Chair Osley answered it may be one of their nurses or analysts. They have analysts who collect the data by towns. Member Kugler believes that they should settle this. Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik told the Board that we don't need to get too many people involved. Member Kugler asked if Claudia Sarti would be able to help the school if there is an outbreak. Chair Osley asked Michael Wood, Interim Superintendent if the school has funding for that. Mr. Wood informed the Board that we don't get any specific funding except an ESER grant and we can apply funding to that. The CIC also pays for this directly, they pay the staff for the testing materials.

UNANTICIPATED NEW BUSINESS: Charlie Kaniecki informed the Board about 462 Main Street. Mr. Kaniecki is sending a letter to the owner and to summarize, the owner was given an order to repair the apartment. The owner asked for a 30-day extension which was given. Mr. Kaniecki is supposed to do a reinspection on December 21, 2021. Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board that the owner's letter of December 9 is disagreeing with the Order. The owner alleges he spoke with a plumber who said he would not do anything with the plumbing in the basement. Mr. Kaniecki said he doesn't know who the plumber is but that means standing raw sewage is sitting in the basement. Mr. Kaniecki also said he requested that the owner upgrade the wiring in the kitchen and allegedly an electrician was supposed to come out. The owner, in his recent letter, was questioning why the Board of Health is involved in this. Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board that code clearly states you need proper amperage and the Code doesn't differentiate between old and new housing. Mr. Kaniecki informed the Board that when he sends the letter he will be asking for the name of both the plumber and electrician. Mr. Kaniecki said he will

postpone the inspection date and give him another 30 days. Mr. Kaniecki will recommend that we take him to court if he doesn't respond by the end of January.

Member Kugler informed the Board that the Board needs more money for Sharps Containers. She informed the Board that if we need more containers, it shows the program is very successful. One Board member mentioned that only in America can a pharmaceutical company make hazardous waste where the taxpayer pays for disposal of that hazardous material! There was some discussion to find out if out of town people were using the drop off but the members agreed that is not the case. Chair Osley discussed additional funding for the Sharps Containers with the Town Administrator and informed the Board that we will need to talk to the Finance Committee about the costs.

OLD BUSINESS: Roof leaks in the elementary school: Chair Osley asked Mr. Wood if there are any updates. Mr. Wood informed the Board that Florence Roofing came out to look at the roof a few weeks ago. They will get a written estimate from them. Mr. Genovese is also working to get that. They can do the patching but he encouraged the school to look into a complete replacement of the entire roof. Chair Osley asked Mr. Wood if he noticed any increased dripping or mold? Mr. Wood said the roof is still leaking but has not seen anything expanding but certainly it needs to be repaired. Chair Osley mentioned when there is water on the floor, we need to be careful so there are no slip and falls.

Member Kugler made a motion to adjourn at 4:31 p.m.; Vice Chairperson Zgrodnik seconded; all in favor, aye, motion approved.

Respectfully,

Karen Brodeur
Executive Assistant