

TOWN OF AYER
BOARD OF HEALTH

TOWN HALL – 1 MAIN STREET – AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432 – (978) 772-8213
K

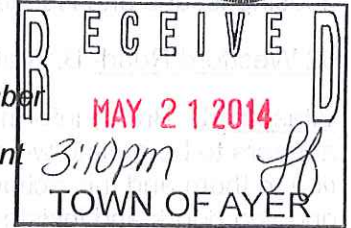


Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2014

Members Present: Heather Hasz, *Chair*; Mary Spinner, *Clerk*; Pamela Papineau, *Member*

Others Present: Bridgette Braley, *Health Agent*; Debra Butcher, *Administrative Assistant*

Meeting Called to Order: H. Hasz called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.



5:30 pm – Mark Wetzel, Superintendent, Department of Public Works – H. Hasz stated that Mr. Wetzel requested time on the agenda to speak about the current protocol for trash haulers and to discuss the possibility of licensing them. Mr. Wetzel said that the DPW currently manages and operates the Transfer Station, monitors the landfill, sets the budget and receives inspections issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. He wanted to know what other role the Board had in terms of the operation of the Transfer Station.

H. Hasz stated that currently if a bad load is flagged, the Board of Health would be the first to be contacted in town. M. Spinner stated that when she was Chairman, she was called over a weekend when an attendant at the Transfer Station discovered a syringe in a compactor. M. Spinner responded to the call and reported it to the police. Mr. Wetzel supported the creation of a contingency plan in order to prepare themselves with different types of emergencies that may occur. He stated that during his curbside pickup study recently, a waste hauler in town told him that he was surprised that the town did not have regulations in place. Mr. Wetzel said that he was hoping that the Board would support some. M. Spinner reported that the Board currently has provisions in place for illegal dumping at the Transfer Station in which fines could be assessed.

Mr. Wetzel stated that he has researched other towns and briefly summarized what regulations were in place and referenced the Town of Norfolk where they were required to provide their customer base and truck route. H. Hasz stated that the Board was not debating the merits of curbside pickup vs. the Transfer Station, however, she was not in favor of passing regulations. She stated that if problems arose with odors from a dumpster, the Board had leverage to take action. B. Braley stated that odors would be addressed under the State's nuisance laws. Ms. Butcher provided a copy of the Town of Groton's trash hauler regulations for the Board to review. H. Hasz briefly reviewed the model from Groton and stated that she would be interested in reviewing what other towns currently had in place. M. Spinner questioned the inspection process and stated that the town of Ayer has minimal inspectional service personnel. B. Braley will explore what other towns do for enforcement. H. Hasz stated that the Board will look at this proposal and make a decision to go forward or not.

Mr. Wetzel questioned whether the Board was amenable to changing the timeframe for stickers to be sold from its current fiscal year process to a calendar year. He stated that he met with the online agency that the water and sewer bills are paid through and they indicated that they could accommodate transfer station stickers to be paid online. He said the vehicle registration would be verified through their excise tax bills. He felt that would ease up on the traffic associated with renewal time, however, the Board would still maintain the responsibility of setting the fees.

H. Hasz stated that the Board would take this under advisement and will await information back from B. Braley on how other towns dealt with enforcement of trash haulers. The Board took no further action.

Acceptance of Minutes: March 24, 2014: M. Spinner made a motion to accept the minutes of March 24, 2014 as written, 2nd P. Papineau. *VOTE: 3-0 in favor.*

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health-Mail Review: B. Braley provided an update on the following material in the mail packet and other issues:

10 East Main Street – B. Braley reported that she inspected the dumpster and found it be covered with no odors. If residents felt it was too close to the road, they should contact the DPW.

60 Littleton Road- B. Braley conducted an inspection last week and found water damage issues and general housing issues and issued an order to correct to the landlord.

62 Westford Road- B. Braley reported that there is an eviction order in place.

Vitasoy – B. Braley informed the Board that additional odor complaints have been received and that the smell appears to be getting worse for the neighbors in the surrounding area. She stated the D.E.P. has imposed a fine to them and this action will be published in the local newspaper. H. Hasz expressed her concern about the ongoing odors and insisted that they appear before the Board in order to field these complaints and to take steps to alleviate such foul odors. M. Spinner stated that the new system installed was supposed to cut down on odors.

B. Braley stated that the new system was a “trial and error” experiment, however, it has been more error than trial lately. She recommended that the Board that they call them in for a meeting. H. Hasz agreed and asked B. Braley to get a contact name so she can write a letter asking them to appear before them at their May 5, 2014 meeting.

Mail Review: The Board reviewed the mail packet as prepared. H. Hasz stated that there was additional mail received today (4-14-14) in regards to 65 Littleton Road requesting a response to the attorney’s ongoing investigation on this property. B. Braley stated that her office has no files on this and requested that Ms. Butcher email her the contact number so she can call him directly. H. Hasz reported that they have received documentation from the Central Mass Mosquito Control Program asking the Board to sign a declaration of support. The Board agreed to have the Chairman sign the document.

Administrative Assistant Update: Ms. Butcher reported that letters were sent out for animal/fowl permit renewals and responses were coming in. She will prepare the permits for the Board to sign.

Shepley Hill/Plow Shop Update – Pamela Papineau: P. Papineau reported that she has reviewed the Land Use Controls document and will send an email in support of the PACE consultant’s recommendations. Discussion followed regarding adequate sign warnings near bodies of water which need to be in place to alert people that any fish taken from the area should not be consumed. P. Papineau will ensure that she adds this recommendation to her email.

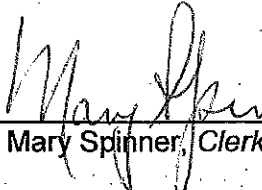
Curbside Pick Up Working Group Update – Mary Spinner: M. Spinner stated that there have been no meetings held since the public meeting on March 20, 2014 and as of this time, none have been scheduled.

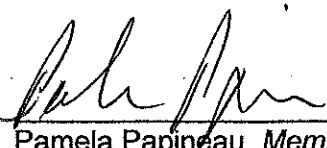
Aquifer Protection District Checklist: M. Spinner informed the Board that she has reread the regulations and felt that the only problem is with the process for applicants; it’s important that the applicants are aware that the Board of Health Regulations related to the Aquifer District Health Overlay, also that the applicants should come to the Board to determine applicability and work in unison with other Boards to address any timing of other Public Hearings. P. Papineau stated that in order to simplify the application process, she recommended separating out the requirements for both residential and commercial applicants but felt that this change might trigger needing a public hearing to do it. She stated that she will contact the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair to discuss their permitting process. The Board agreed to place this on their May 5, 2014 agenda.

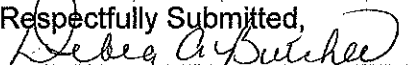
Adjourn: M. Spinner motioned to adjourn at 6:55 pm, P. Papineau-2nd. VOTE: 3-0 in favor.

Ayer Board of Health


Heather Hasz, Chair


Mary Spinner, Clerk


Pamela Papineau, Member

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Butcher, Administrative Assistant