

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
October 20, 2014

A Regular Board of Health Meeting at the Town Hall was held on Monday, October 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Board members present: Jeannine Lopes, Peter DeTerra and Barbara Acksen. Also present: Patricia Fowle, Health Agent.

Chairman Lopes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2014. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. DeTerra; seconded by Ms. Acksen. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Lopes asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of October 6, 2014. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. DeTerra; seconded by Ms. Acksen. The vote was unanimous.

Before the Board were representatives of the Town Government Study Committee: Mr. Bernard Roderick, Ms. Patricia Pacella and Mr. Richard Griffiths. Mr. Roderick explained that the Committee was formed based on the 2012 Department of Revenue (DOR) report and began in 2013 to review departments in light of the DOR report. Though the Board of Health (BOH) was not part of the report as it is not part of the Financial Departments within Town government, the Committee wished to be thorough and interview all departments. The Committee made several recommendations at the Annual Town Meeting in May, 2014, that were adopted, including adoption of the Town Manager form of government. The Board received five (5) questions of interest from the Committee beforehand. The discussion centered on elected vs. appointed BOH, the need for a medical or health individual on the Board, the needs of the current Board to operate more effectively, how the Board would work under a Town Administrator and the responsibilities of the BOH. Additionally the discussion reviewed the need for proper staffing of the Board office and its personnel which would lead to more effective working through environmental and health related issues in Town, the need for funding within the Board's budget for legal counsel and overall, a better communication process with other Boards, Commissions and staff throughout Town government.

Health Agent's report:

The first of two flu clinics held Tuesday, October 14, 2014, had 173 participants. There are about 350 vaccine doses remaining for the next flu clinic of October 21, 2014.

The new Health Inspector has been on the job since October 7, 2014, and work is progressing well as is communication with the stores and office.

The Board reviewed the prepared draft amended tobacco regulations for Prohibiting Smoking in Workplaces and Public Places and the regulation for Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products. The drafts were prepared as instructed at the previous Board meeting and no changes were made by the Board. The Board will hold a public meeting on November 10, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to vote on the amended regulations. The notice will be properly advertised.

The Board next reviewed the Fairhaven Fire Department Emergency Service policy for transporting probable Ebola victims. The policy does mention the health agent as taking part in the investigation of contact individuals. However, as experience unfolds the policy will change. Presently local Board's of Health are told to inform the Department of Public Health who will involve the CDC for direction and

investigation. This process as observed globally is in flux until the Ebola virus mechanism is better understood.

The Board received a forwarded email from Selectman Espindola regarding a meeting with the EPA on the New Bedford Harbor cleanup, CAD construction, air monitoring and no fishing signs along the banks of the Acushnet River. Ms. Acksen stated she would speak with Mr. Espindola to get a clearer definition of the task he is requesting of the Board of Health or its staff.

Invoices were signed. Ms. Acksen and Mr. DeTerra will be attending the MAHB Certification Program on November 1, 2014, at the Taunton Holiday Inn.

There being no other business before the Board, motion to adjourn was made by Mr. DeTerra; seconded by Ms. Lopes. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Fowle, Health Agent