

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 13, 2010

The Board of Health held a meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Members present were Tom Philippou, Lorin Johnson and Jack Spero. Also present Ira Grossman, RS, Ken Gikas (Public Health Emergency Preparedness), Mathew Bombaci (GPR, Inc.), Deborah Skauen-Hinchliffe (221 Still River Road) and Kathy Bunnell (Harvard press)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Business was as follows:

Ken Gikas – Emergency Preparedness Update

The Board discussed problems with the reimbursement, by the town, for supplies purchased by their clerk through the PHER grant. When questioned by the Board, Ken stated that anything purchased from the pre-approved list of supplies was automatically subject to reimbursement and that there were no additional strings attached. He also clarified for the Board that due to the nature of the grant there should not have been any restrictions placed on the reimbursements of these funds by the town's finance department. The grant funding was to be expended by the Board or it would need to be returned to the Commonwealth. The PHER money is to be used at the sole discretion of the Board for supplies it deems necessary for the establishment of its emergency dispensing site and the plan that provides for its implementation. Ken will talk to Kerry about contacting the finance director to clear up the confusion.

Ken explained the available reverse 911 system to the Board and again highlighted some of the advantages of this system. He also explained that Harvard was among the very few local communities that had chosen to not participate. In his opinion, the geographic notification ability of this system is the best available, but did acknowledge some of the limitations. Ira told the Board and Ken that he has been trying to get Tim Bragan to call the Sheriffs department regarding the reverse 911 system, but as of this date it has not been done. He will ask again on Thursday. The Board feels this would supplement the current system and not replace it and could provide a safety 'backup' in the event of local catastrophic events.

GPR for Firefly Farm, 2 Brown Road - Discussion

Matt, from GPR, appeared before the Board to discuss the above property. The engineer is requesting for variances for the new system. The Board asked what happened to the old system. The engineer stated he thought it had failed. Ira stated he did not believe the old system failed and that it was more likely that the desire to have a new system coincided with the new house being built. He believes the new system could meet full compliance without any variances and that should be the goal. Ira stated that the Board may grant the reduction under local upgrade approval if the project can not meet full compliance. Matt stated that the owner does not want a mounded system in her backyard so this new location was chosen to prevent that.

The Board reviewed the proposed plan and after a brief discussion stated that they would rather the system be moved a few feet to achieve full compliance, than to grant a

variance for an easily fixable solution. They also stated that if Matt wanted to bring the Board other information regarding this proposed solution they would be willing to listen and might reconsider. Matt stated that he will check with Bruce and would more than likely appear at a later meeting.

Budget Resolution

Tom stated that he has not heard whether the BOH budget has been restored to fund the clerk's position for the upcoming year. He stated that the lack of communication is appalling and unprofessional. It is the Board's opinion that the demonstrated necessity of the clerk and the minimal cost to the town for the clerk's services does not appear to jeopardize the Town's fiscal solvency. The Board continuously gives money back each year to help balance the budget and has asked for additional funding each year to allow the clerk to work more hours to cover the larger requests for this position like the emergency preparedness, flu clinics, and mandatory follow-up on action items. The Board will continue to ask the Town Administrator and Finance Director about the funding for the position.

Office Security

The Board discussed the need to have the file cabinets locked when the clerk is not in the office. They also discussed putting in place a new procedure for review of the files. They will continue to discuss the issues at a later time to come up with a plan. Funding for this plan should be obtainable from grant sources.

Workplace Harassment

The Board discussed the office environment and stressors placed upon the clerk from other parties. There is a lack of communication from the other offices making it difficult for the clerk to do her job. The Board will look into what they can do to relieve the pressure of the office and allow the communication to flow between the other offices.

PHER Supply List

Ken told the Board that he will provide a list of items they might want to purchase with the PHER funds. Ira will provide a list from Nashoba. The Board will then compile the list to come up with items to purchase with the remaining PHER funds.

General Store – Discussion –

Ira asked the Board members if they had sent the letter to the General Store regarding Soup Sales. The letter is still in the draft stage but will be sent soon.

Hirsch, 275 – 285 Ayer Road - Update

Ira updated the Board regarding the missing Title 5 inspection. Nashoba has now received their copy of the Title 5 and there are no more outstanding issues regarding this

report. He also stated that he talked to the owner about the collapsed garage on the property. The owner stated that it will be taken care of by the end of June.

Permits signed-

Noonan, 62 South Shaker Road, Lot 9 – Single component replacement for existing dwelling. Installation of a new Distribution Box.

Minutes

Tom Philippou made a motion to table the minutes of January 12, 2010, March 9, 2010, and March 23, 2010. Lorin Johnson seconded. The vote was 3-0 to approve.

Tom Philippou made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Jack Spero seconded. The vote was 3-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Large, Clerk