

MINUTES
STURBRIDGE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Monday, December 20, 2010 7:00pm

Meeting called to order 7:00pm.

Present: Members Linda Cocalis, Bob Audet, John Degnan; Health Agent, Alyssa Rusiecki, and Inspector Ron Woolhouse. Also present Greg Morse, DPW Director and Eric Morse, who wishes to volunteer.

DPW Director Report, Landfill leachate: Greg Morse shows the drainage lines represented on the plan of the landfill, which are collecting leachate as well as stormwater. Mr. Morse states that although this is an increase, it is not an emergency, and there is no way to divert stormwater. Mr. Morse states that the leachate pumping budget should be increased by 30-35% for the coming fiscal year.

Inspector's Report: Mr. Woolhouse reports that an inspection was conducted at Empire Village and the "scallops" were re-labeled as "imitation scallops." New establishment opening inspections were conducted at the new location of Sturbridge Coffee Shop, and at Steladenas Bake Shop. The Board members discuss the parking issues at the Sturbridge Coffee House. The Agent has instructed the staff to review and follow-up on grease trap maintenance, and Mr. Woolhouse has been contacting the establishments. Mr. Woolhouse asks for clarification on the Food Establishment & Hotel/motels that do not renew their applications in a timely manner. While the fees double on February 15th, the applications should be completed and delivered to the Board of Health office by January 15th, which a grace period allowed after the December 31st expiration date. The Board agrees that the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen should be notified that the Board of Health staff will initiate closure procedures if the applications are not submitted by January 15th. The Board also instructs the Agent to publish this information in the newspaper under legal notices. Reminder notices will also be sent out. The office schedule is discussed.

Administrative report: Ms. Rusiecki reviews the minutes of November 1st and November 15th. Ms. Cocalis makes a motion to accept the minutes with minor revisions. Dr. Audet seconds.

Agent's Report: Ms. Rusiecki reports on routine inspections; she was summoned to District Court in the case regarding thefts from the Municipal Building Board of Health office. There was no Police officer there before Ms. Rusiecki gave information and was dismissed. There was no follow-up information given to the Board of Health Agent as to the outcome of the case. John Kenney of the Department of Agriculture, Animal Division, called to question about the history of "the Dog House" pet shop. Even though they have moved out of town, the Agent stated that there was suspect case of Giardia last year and advice from the Department of Agriculture at that time, was that they would send a State inspector and no follow-up was required from the local Board of Health. Region2 has now obtained the signed mutual aid agreement; the satellite phone test was done. Mr. Degnan states that reporting is required to Region2 regarding ICS coursework. Ms. Cocalis asks if Mr. Degnan can conduct these courses; he indicates that he can but that it may be more convenient to take the courses on-line.

The Agent provides a newspaper article from Belchertown that discusses their fees for their transfer station. The Agent reports that our Recycling Center received an award from the Central Mass Municipal Recycling Council Recognition Award "For their Outstanding Waste Program, with each participating household averaging less than 1200 lbs. of trash per year, (with the state average at over 2000 lbs per year.)"

Correspondence is discussed including a DEP release notice of hazardous material at 215 Charlton Rd.; Ms Cocalis states that the material released is by-product of electrical transformers and is carcinogenic. Mr. Degnan asks about the Board of Health role; Ms. Cocalis states that it is to ensure that the matter is being followed up-on by DEP. Ms. Cocalis will follow-up. Mr. Degnan states that he has obtained the different levels of liability insurance for employees vs. volunteers. Dr. Audet states that he has obtained similar information. This will be an important consideration when looking for a Physician for the Board of Health.

Administration: FY12 budget detail is reviewed and approved, including the inclusion of DPW Director Morse's recommendation that the leachate removal line item be increased 30 – 35%.

The trash hauler fees are proposed to be increased to \$50 per vehicle after the \$300 company fee via motion of Dr. Audet and seconded by Mr. Degnan. Approved by vote (3 – 0).

Voluntary nutritional requirements: Mr. Degnan would like letters to go to all Food Establishments supporting this effort. The Board agrees to send out letters.

Recycling Sticker distribution: The new policy for residents wishing to pick up Recycling Stickers is that they will be distributed during the hours only when the Administrative Assistant is in the office, daily 9:30 – 12:30pm and after those hours, residents will be instructed to fill out the application and leave it and a copy of their vehicle registration in the "In-basket" at the Board of Health counter. These applications will be processed the next day, or when the administrative assistant comes in, and can be picked up then. All second stickers will cost \$20 no matter what the reason – and even if cars have been traded in or changed for some other circumstance.

Volunteer Eric Morse is asked his interest in the Board of Health. Eric states he is interested in septic systems and is available after 5:30pm and on weekends. Chairman Cocalis asked if he experience in groundwater testing; Eric states yes. The Chair will arrange to have the Southbridge landfill groundwater testing reports sent to Eric so he can review them and provide a report to the Board of Health if he wishes to volunteer for this task.

The Chairman reports to the Board that the Agent has met her performance evaluation goals for this past year and a motion is made by Mr. Degnan to recommend that the merit bonus be approved, Dr. Audet seconds; vote to approve (3 – 0). New goals will be agreed upon at a future date. Mr. Degnan states that job descriptions should be updated.

Hearing: 60 South Shore Rd. Well variance request, less than 100 feet to septic systems; (owner Grehl, buyer Robinson, consultant Mark Farrell, RS). No one appears for this hearing; it is not re-opened. There is no discussion and no variances are granted.

Concerns of Members: Ms. Cocalis states that the site at 173 Main Street is under scrutiny by a citizens' group represented by Jim DeCoulos that went to a Board of Selectmen's meeting last week. The (previous) interim town manager, previous to Shaun Suhoski, stated that the Board of Health should vote on the sewer expansion per Sewer Bylaws. Further discussion with DPW Director Greg Morse resulted in a decision, at that time, that Board of Health did not need to vote because there is no facility there, so it is not an expansion. A letter should be written to Town Administrator Suhoski stating that the Board of Health never did vote on this sewer expansion/connection. Ms. Cocalis will write the letter.

Old Business: Ms. Cocalis stated that Atty. Myares will represent the Board of Health in the case against DEP regarding the Southbridge landfill change of permit. This should be a major modification of the site assignment.

Dr. Audet re-visits the increase of leachate at our Sturbridge landfill and the need for emergency planning in case our current pumper or plant cannot take the leachate. The Board authorizes Recycling Center Operator John Booth to call in emergency services for both pumping and giving notice to the wastewater treatment plant on weekends, via motion by Dr. Audet and seconded by Ms. Cocalis, voted to approve (3 – 0).

Concerns of the Members: None.

Adjourned 10:25pm.

The next meeting is January 3, 2011 at 7pm.