

**Town of Sturbridge  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
MINUTES**

**March 18, 2013 6pm**

Members present: Linda Cocalis, Daniel Chaput and Richard Volpe. Health Agent Alyssa Rusiecki.

The meeting is called to order at 6:00 pm.

**Agent's Report:**

According to Inspector Pollender, additional pool testing was required at Host Hotel pool and spa, because the pool and water did not meet the minimum State standards. They finally did get two passing weeks with zero readings, so that have been allowed to open and Agent Rusiecki will obtain a kit and do the testing herself next time.

Additional septic fees; DEP will be remanding tasks to the local level, so it recommended that the local Boards of Health adopt the State Title 5 fees. Ms. Rusiecki did check other towns re: fees. (repairs, variances, tight tanks, large systems) \$30K is in the fund presently. Ms. Cocalis asked for present septic fee amount - \$180 for a plan review, includes two reviews, primary and revised and two inspections and review of as-built and final certificate of compliance. Sturbridge is now charging the lowest amounts in the area. \$120 is charged for witness to perc test. \$60 is charged for repair permit – permit and inspection. Mr. Chaput inquired about fees being paid to general fund for work that the Board of Health, specifically. He was told that there is an engineering fund which allows the Board of Health to charge for its monetary needs such as consultant fees. Various potential fee-worthy scenarios were discussed. Ms. Cocalis is interested in learning what other towns will be doing in regard to changing fee amounts since everyone is affected by DEP changes.

**Interdepartmental Reviews:**

Ms. Rusiecki mentioned review of new bathroom construction at the Public House. The new food preparation area must be in compliance. Public House staff states that the adjoining room is just a staging area and not actually food preparation. They were told by Ms. Rusiecki to remove “food preparation sink” from the plans. She adds that the word “warming” was not in the change, so she feels another letter is necessary to clarify that there can be no preparation in this area, just holding.

**Recycling and Landfill:**

Regarding leachate management: Recommendations for trucks to extract from pond as an alternative method and as a preventative measure were considered. Leakage must be controlled. 96k gallons were pumped last week to wastewater treatment plant, photos taken at site. The Town Administrator was told that the Board is waiting to hire someone for the landfill grading and management.

Ms. Cocalis stated that a member of the Finance Committee investigated this site and that the Board is grateful for this interest. Trucking company options were discussed cost comparisons made. Ms. Cocalis re-suggested the possibility of the Town purchasing its own truck to haul the leachate to reduce cost of paying for removal; Town Administrator TA Shaun Suhoski has that option on his agenda.

A discussion of landfill closure ensued; measuring expenses that exist with it open and what would remain once it was actually closed. The costs for closing the site prematurely would result in significant engineering and legal costs as well as the cost of filling the site, covering the site, and continuing to pump the leachate and continuing to monitor the groundwater. The expenses outweigh the benefits, therefore it is better to continue utilizing the landfill and recycling area.

## **Correspondence/New Business**

**Hamilton Rod and Gun Club**, public water supply discussion.

Ms. Cocalis stated that she must recuse herself from discussion of this matter.

Ms. Rusiecki states that the gun club asked for a food permit for weekly breakfasts (Sundays). Ms. Cocalis, a member of the club, states that no breakfast is served. Ms. Cocalis then left the meeting for the duration of this discussion. Before leaving, she produced an email sent to her attention stating that the State is requiring the Club to reduce hours to only Fridays.

Ms. Rusiecki states that their well would be considered a public water supply if used for over 60 days by 25 persons or more per day. The Club should remain closed, Mr. Chaput suggests for any dates that exceeded 60 days per year. Since the Board of Health does not have potential for monitoring the Club's status, it might be prudent to deny their request entirely. A suggestion to discuss at the next Board of Health meeting began with Mr. Chaput stating that he cannot be present for the next scheduled meeting but would be back for the one on 4-15. Ms. Cocalis re-entered and wished to speak as a Club member and stated that there is a list of yearly events. This was in response to letter from the DEP. Ms. Cocalis feels that members of the Club should be present for this discussion. Not knowing that it was on the agenda, they were told their presence was not required. Susan Connors will be sending a letter detailing the Club's normal operations. These operations do not meet the 25 person, 60 day rule. Regular events occur 16-18 days per year (hosted events). Mr. Chaput felt that proper enforcement is not possible due to staffing limitations so making the Club a public water supply would be a sensible decision. Ms. Cocalis stated that the Club's main objection to being a public supply would be the increased fees paid to obtain the required water testing. The Board members then stated that the Club should increase its revenue generating events such as weddings. It was suggested that the Hamilton Rod & Gun Club immediately notify the DEP that they need to apply to obtain certification as having a public water supply. Discussion ended with Ms. Cocalis adding the Club to the agenda of the next Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Cocalis re-joins the active meeting.

## **Old Business**

**181 Shepard Road**, Mr. Chaput inquired if another inspection is required. Ms. Rusiecki stated that the Town Counsel would be sending a Final Letter after the numerous letters, and fines, sent by the Board of Health. This final letter will state that the next step will be court related action. The Town Administrator is aware that emails have been exchanged with this information to the party who does respond for the owner. Ms. Cocalis asked if anyone has recently visited the site. No Board member has been to the site. Septic system remains in the same failed status.

**34 South Road** – Ms. Rusiecki stated that one of the tenants there have threatened “to get her fired” after her last visit to the location because they disagreed with her findings. The landlord has performed several remediations, such as placing a dehumidifier in the basement. Occupants are still complaining about the presence of mold. Ms. Rusiecki took photos of suspect areas. Ms. Rusiecki and Ron have been subpoenaed on behalf of the landlord who is trying to evict the tenants on basis of unpaid rent. Ms. Rusiecki notified Town Counsel that Ron is unavailable as a witness.

**Hyland's Orchards, (195 – 199 Arnold Road)** – Information provided was not what was asked for. Their attorney not able to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Chaput inquired about whether the Orchard has a food permit. Ms. Rusiecki stated that they have applied but the permit has not yet been granted because of non-compliance with Title 5 on-site sewage regulations. Taxes are paid and sewer tie-in plans were supposedly sent, (which the owner states will cost \$200K for installation). The Board felt that delay tactics are being used because there has been no formal submittal to the sewer commission. All agreed that the Orchard should request to be included in the Selectmen's agenda for an upcoming meeting regarding a proposed sewer tie-in, since the Board of Selectmen are the sewer commissioners. Ms. Cocalis stated that Pioneer Brewing will be out of the facility soon and Hyland wishes to expand at that time. She reiterates that

they should not be permitted to do anything until the sewage requirements have been met. Mr. Chaput asked if a 60 day permit can be given. Ms. Rusiecki suggested a motion forbidding any event to take place in which porta-potties are used. A Motion was put forward by Mr. Chaput to grant 60 day permit to Pioneer Brewing Pub business granting an extension for 60 calendar days from March 18<sup>th</sup> for indoor business only. No other outdoor activities at Hyland's Orchards, Pioneer Brewing, or any other rental activities or any other outdoor activities or special events will be permitted until an enforceable agreement is entered into regarding the upgrade of the septic system. Motion was approved and seconded, APPROVED (3 – 0).

#### **Administration:**

Ms. Rusiecki advised that she learned that the Town of Shrewsbury decided to go through with Worcester on a Regionalization plan. They will receive \$120K a year for five years. She also spoke to the attorney at the Ethics Commission regarding the Region2 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) project (on March 8<sup>th</sup>) and was told that there was no problem and no need for a notice of disclosure. Ms. Rusiecki, again on March 18<sup>th</sup> contacted the attorney and asked for a written determination, and she was told that it would take some additional time for written email verification, but that there is no conflict of interest issue for Ms. Rusiecki, to work on administration of the Region2 regional sub-division for MRC recruitment.

Ms. Rusiecki has registered for two advanced on-site wastewater workshops at the University of Rhode Island for April 2 and April 9<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that this education will benefit some of the more difficult septic upgrade properties in Sturbridge with the option of an Innovative and Alternative system, called a Bottomless Sand Filter.

#### **Concerns of the Members**

Mr. Chaput stated that he has spoken to Debra at Harrington Preventive Health and she understands that any case investigation that exceeds four units (1 hour) must be reported to Mr. Chaput and Ms. Rusiecki. Mr. Chaput stated that Debra expressed interest in doing a presentation about flu mist clinics possibly being done in the school system. These clinics would be no charge to the public, similar to the program being offered to the Senior Center. These clinics are an excellent method of reducing flu within the community. Ms. Cocalis asks for a written quote/agreement, as we have had with Maxim in the past. The Agent will send a letter. The Board supports flu vaccinations for schoolchildren, but that must be arranged through the Superintendent's Office.

Ms. Rusiecki reports that the Town Administrator, Shaun, has requested from her, a more complete statement of goals to fulfill requirements of merit pay increase. Ms. Cocalis adds that she has also been told to outline a list of goals for Ms. Rusiecki for the coming year. Examples can be obtained from other departments. Any goals that are listed must be "above and beyond" the normal job description. Mr. Chaput also asked that examples be provided to the Board in this matter. He will follow-up.

Having no other business, there is a motion and second to adjourn, APPROVED (3 -0).  
Adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Rusiecki,  
Public Health Agent



