

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
August 19th, 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. Chairman Cocalis reviews information from Town Counsel regarding Open Meeting Law, (OML). The Chair hands out information provided by the town counsel, Kopelman and Page. Ms. Cocalis explains that the Agent does not fall under the Open Meeting Law, OML, but the members do. She suggests communicating directly to the Agent and that members cannot communicate with each other outside of a meeting. Mr. Volpe would like to know how to obtain reports and forward information. Mr. Chaput states that as a matter of etiquette, it would be best to “copy all” members. Ms. Cocalis states there can be no deliberation in group email.

Interview: Katherine Pollender, RN

Ms. Pollender is currently a DPH Region 2 Planner for Public Health Emergency Programs and oversees seven local towns with respect to Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) plans.

Ms. Linda Cocalis states that Kate has also worked for the Board of Health on special projects as a public health nurse; Kate confirms that for the last three years she has inspected the Sturbridge tattoo festival, complaint-driven foodborne illnesses, and immunizations for camp reviews. Mr. Chaput asks what might Kate do if she were confronted with an illness with which she was unfamiliar? Kate reports that she feels very comfortable having adequate higher education both for her RN and for BSN; additionally, she would consult the MA State DPH Guide to Surveillance, Reporting and Control for Communicable Diseases (raspberry book), reach out to the epidemiologist on call at DPH, and consult with her other professional contacts at Region2, if necessary. Ms. Cocalis makes a motion to hire Kate as public health nurse, Mr. Volpe seconds. Discussion of Ms. Pollender’s credentials and process. Ms. Cocalis states that many other towns do handle the communicable disease follow-up (known as MAVEN) in-house without a medical director. Ms. Cocalis continues, if there were an outbreak and a large number of people would need to be vaccinated, the State would help by providing orders and sending nurses in the event of such an emergency. Rich states that many people don’t even know we have a Board of Health. The Agent speaks in support of Kate and her abilities. Kate states that she feels confident that she can handle the responsibilities. There is discussion that at a previous Board of Health meeting, the scope of duties were discussed and approved by the Board, with Ms. Cocalis and Mr. Degnan voting affirmative. Ms. Cocalis moves the question, (2 – 1). Ms. Cocalis and Mr. Volpe approve Ms. Pollender as public Health nurse. Mr. Chaput disapproves. The matter is APPROVED. The appointment shall become active after thirty days.

Presentation: Rite Aid representatives Steve Horne and Anthony Bellino.

Flu Clinic proposal. They work in Southbridge and other Towns; they will organize the paperwork and bring enough help to help the citizens at the Senior Center do the forms. They are available to set up a clinic at the safety complex and other Town buildings if the interest is there. Ms. Cocalis makes a motion to have Mr. Horne and Mr. Bellino from Rite Aid conduct the Senior Center Flu clinic on behalf of the Board of Health; Mr. Volpe seconds. They can reach out directly to Melissa at the Senior Center. APPROVED (3 – 0).

Old Business: The Agent reports that the process is under way to turn the stipend inspector position into a regular part-time position. There shall be a meeting at the Personnel Board and then any job description that is approved then must receive approval from the Board of Selectmen.

Landfill/Recycling Center

Ms. Cocalis: Not comfortable with Jessica working – can they find another person? DPW – overtime - they have a call down list.

Correspondence

Routine and invoicing from Harrington.

Ms. Cocalis motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard Volpe. APPROVED (3-0).
Adjourned at 7:45pm

Next meeting: September 9th or 16th, TBD.

Reviewed: 5-22-2014
Approved: (2 -0) LC RV

