

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Chairman, Richard Desjardins. Also in attendance were; Member, Al Holman; Member, Richard Robinson; and Asst. Public Health Officer, Diane Tiernan.

Meeting minutes were reviewed from the 9/12/13 meeting.

Motion One – Al made a motion to approve of the minutes from 9/12/13. Richard R. seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Board discussed an article for mosquito control for the next town meeting. Richard R. stated he would like to put the article on the warrant for the next town meeting. He would like to try and stay ahead of the curve by joining the CMMCP now and be ready by spring. Al stated he feels the same people that shot it down at the last meeting will be back to shoot it down again. Richard D. stated in his experience town meeting articles may take four or five times before it will go through. He agrees we need to do something, there are a lot of people spraying on their own with no regulations on how much they use on their own yard. Complaints come from the neighbors. The spraying that's occurring now is more than what would be used by a regional agency. He feels though that we should wait until next year to bring up the article again. Board agreed not to pursue the mosquito control article at this time.

Conservation Commission members were present tonight to observe the Boards decision on the mosquito control article. Mike Penko stated he is concerned that the spraying that the CMMCP would do would have a negative impact on the wildlife environment.

7:12 p.m. Conservation Commission left.

7:12 p.m. – Kate Hawkins, A.C.O. arrived. Kate came tonight at the Boards request to discuss the protocol for animal complaints. The Police Dept., has notified the Board of their concerns with the delayed response when there is a complaint. Al stated the problem is not that you aren't doing the job, but it appears it's not being done in a timely fashion. If the Police dept., have to make an arrest and there is a dog in the vehicle, they can't move until the dog is picked up. It seems you are not available when you are needed. We need to get this under control. You should be able to respond to a phone call within 10 minutes if you are available or not available. If you are not available we can contact the assistant A.C.O., and compensate her from the ACO salary, but we need a response. Kate stated that she sometimes has to leave town with her children.

Richard R. asked Kate if she could supply the Board with a list of calls she has been on within the past month. Kate stated the calls are all on sheets of paper all over the house. Her computer has not been working for several months, she needs a new battery. Richard asked Kate to handwrite a list and send it to the Board. Diane was asked to order a battery for Kate's computer. Richard D. stated he understands this is a difficult job but he doesn't think the response is adequate. Richard R. stated we need to have a protocol on how to respond, its too loopy goosey. When you leave town, we need to

be advised that you will not be available. The town manager should also be advised when you are not available since you are also the dog officer for the Selectmen. We will have a target of Wednesday to get the computer fixed. Richard D. stated we could also pursue getting a town paid cell phone if you feel that would help with being able to reach you faster. Kate agreed.

7:21 Kate left.

Applications for well permits were reviewed for Scott Butler, Prospect Street, Lots 3 and 4.

Motion Two – Al made a motion to approve of the well applications for Prospect Street, Lots 3 and 4 . Richard Robinson seconded the motion and Richard Desjardins made the motion unanimous. Permits were approved.

Board discussed the Hazardous Waste Day to be held on October 19th. Diane will get the signs up shortly.

7:40 p.m. Ken Picard arrived to discuss the mission statement for the town of Upton.

7:50 p.m. Kate Hawkins returned. Kate stated she has done the job of animal control officer for seven years, but does not feel she can do the job the way the Board needs it done. She cannot perform the job on a 911 basis. Therefore, she is officially resigning and will turn the vehicle and her computer in.

7:39 Kate left.

Board stated they wish she would reconsider her resignation.

Ken stated he was here about a month ago to discuss core values with the Board. He requested feedback and comments but understood the Board wanted a full quorum before making any comments.

Board stated the terms they would use for core values with a focus on health would be ; honesty, responsiveness, openness, integrity, transparency, protect, and responsibility that pertain to the Health and welfare of the community.

Ken stated that the core values should be consistent with other Boards and committees in town. A vision statement would be different for every department.

Richard D. agreed we all service the same individuals and therefore our values should be the same.

Board agreed our mission statement would be “to provide a safe healthy environment where the citizens of Upton and guests can reside with proper stewardship.

Ken asked for this information to be emailed to him. In the future he would like to discuss S.W.O.T.. at a meeting with the Board.

Board also discussed balance score cards, improving operations for the town manager, strategic planning, accountability and training with town employees,

8:15 p.m., Ken left.

Diane stated that the town nurse, Trish Parent, will be holding a flu clinic on Friday, 10/18.

An Installers permit was reviewed and approved for Neil Smith Excavating, of Northbridge, MA .

Board discussed the animal control officer position. Al stated we need a computer that's running and has the appropriate software. All applicants must be aware of our communication expectations. Richard Robinson agreed, they should also be reporting to Diane with a weekly log and attending our meetings once a month. Diane was instructed to also notify the town manager as Kate was also the Dog Officer. Board discussed appointing Corey Oehley as temporary animal control office immediately to fill the position until the Board can officially appoint an animal control officer. The position will need to be posted through the Personnel Board.

Motion three - Al made a motion to appoint Cori Oehley as temporary animal control officer until further notice and Richard R. seconded the motion. Richard D., made the motion unanimous.

Diane was instructed to notify Kate in hopes that she may have reconsidered her resignation, but if she has not, than we will need it in writing as well as the Selectmen. Diane will also contact Cori.

8:38 p.m. Richard D. made a motion to adjourn, and Al seconded the motion. Richard R. made the motion unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Tiernan, Asst. Public Health Supervisor.

