

# Draft

## Board of Health Minutes

February 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. Present were Tom Klem, Chair, Michael Bean, M. D., and Michael Wegerbauer. Also present were Julia Junghanns, Director and Patti White, Department Assistant.

8:05 p.m. Public comments- There were none.

8:07 p.m. Discussion regarding the Sensus FlexNet wireless water metering system being considered in the DPW budget

Mr. Robert Wenstrup, Wayland resident- is here to speak regarding this device. He has a doctorate in physics, and expertise in medical and radiology therapy. He does many reviews for city and towns regarding concerns with low frequency fields, and cell towers and high tension towers. Tonight he will speak regarding our concerns of thermal effects only. Medical and engineering and scientific community has studied the thermal effects of radiation (rf) forms. Non thermal effects have not been reviewed by the scientific community to provide an opinion and will not be commented on tonight.

Don Ouellette, DPW Director (not present at the meeting) has asked RW to review the Sensus FlexNet metering system that is being proposed for automatic water meter reading for all residences in the town. Mr. W. explained to the Board that the proposed system is a very basic system, it is considered a "smart technology" but it is actually a "dumb" system, as it has mostly one way communication from the meter back to the Town. The unit does not communicate or track information and many other "smart meters" do. When it is not transmitting information it is dead. Unlike a cell tower which is on all the time emitting a sphere of energy. Presently there are black plastic modules on the outside of the residences in town that currently are being read with a hand held wand by meter readers. Mr. W. has shown the Board what the new unit looks like, and how it will attach over the existing meter reading unit on the outside of the house. There would be an antennae at Reeves Hill which the water meters would communicate with by sending out a signal to this antennae. The Town would be signaling the house based meter to report water usage readings 6 times a day.

The unit will transmit at 1 watt, capable of operation at 2 watts but will operate at 1 watt per transmission; Mr. W. had compared that to a basic household light bulb that operates at 60 watts. The transmission is for .0003 (3-6 thousandths of a second) of a second 6 times a day. The ratio of on time to off time is close to zero. Mr. W has been in communication with people at the Sensus facility in California, regarding development and sales, he had a web conference today. He has reminded the Board that he is representing the town and not the product producers. The exposure to the public for radiation is very, very low to the residents of the homes in Wayland. He does not consider this device to be a health risk for anyone. The unit meets FCC standards and all guidelines. Mr. W. has to look at the information he has gathered during his conference with the people at Sensus and will have to report the information at a later date. The facility on the tower will mostly receive data and is considered a

“passive system”, there will be an occasional situations, when it may have to send out signals to water meter reading units to reset data. However, the antennae does not need power to receive the signal and does not actively transmit rf’s.

Mr. W. has requested a GIS map regarding the radius of the water tower where the antenna would be located. The antenna is a passive system, it receives information and is not considered to be a health concern to the town regarding thermal effects. The map with the 500 foot radius is in meeting package.

There was a discussion with Mr. W and the Board regarding the amount of power emitted during the transmissions from the meter reading equipment and there was a discussion regarding how the energy was being measured.

A question was raised regarding readings being performed 6 times a day. The reason for this number of transmissions is maximize the life time of the battery in the unit.

Peggy Patton- Plain Rd resident is updating the Board on her history working with past Boards in regards to cell/microwave research starting in 1998. W.H.O. said in 2000 cell/microwave technology may have possible carcinogen effects, and additionally the W.H.O announced in 2011 that wi-fi products may be possible carcinogen. BOH in 1998 stopped the cell tower antennas from being brought in to areas of town other than Reeves Hill, The BOH also supported a 900 ft setback. She has concerns about non-thermal effects and feels that FCC standards are outdated.

Dianna Warren-former Wayland resident, addressed the Board regarding her continued concerns regarding public health issues. She has presented the board with a large amount of documents and reports regarding health concerns related to EMF radiations, and cell phones. Included are documents from the American Academy of Environmental Medicine dated 01/12 regarding smart meter technology, University at Albany –Institute for Health and the Environment, regarding smart meters. There is also a publication from the County of Santa Cruz, CA regarding a possible moratorium on Smart meters. They submitted a commentary from Dr. Karl Maret, of Dove health Alliance of Aptos, CA regarding the California Council on Science and Technology report “Health Impacts of Radio Frequency from Smart Meters” published January 2011. The final document was a very large publication from Sage Associates (Environmental Consultants) listed as “Assessment of Radiofrequency Microwave Radiation Emissions from Smart Meters”. Ms. Warren feels that this issue will not go away for Public Health. We should look at the big picture and regulatory scheme, other issues will come up and these water meters are not federally mandated.

Ed Collins is concerned about the biological effects and physical effects of radiation.

Tom Klem was concerned about information being manipulated in documents/studies to advocate against smart meters.

Should there be an opt out option?

The Board has requested that Ms. Patton and Ms. Warren submit to the Board for review a list of links to documents of reference or a study to specifically advocate for the ban of microwave radiation as they have referenced in their discussion.

Bills have been signed for payment

Directors Report has been reviewed. There was a discussion about the New Town Beach House which is included in the Directors Report. We are waiting for an evaluation report on the existing septic system to determine how the system is functioning.

9:50 p.m. Meeting adjourned