

BOARD OF HEALTH
June 23, 2020
Minutes
Meeting Conducted on Zoom

PRESENT

Health Agent: Bruce Wilson, Jr.
Chairperson: Patricia Leclair
Vice Chairperson: Kelly McGovern
Member: Vincent Forte, Jr.
Minutes Clerk: Tina Griffin

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Leclair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES

Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2020 meeting, as submitted.
Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

CORONA VIRUS UPDATES

Health Agent, Bruce Wilson, Jr. gave an update on the number of Covid-19 cases in Town and the continuing decrease in positive cases that are being reported. Mr. Wilson said that while some businesses start to re-open and transition back into normal hours and services, the Board will continue to monitor the cases and make sure the numbers don't start to increase.

REVIEW VARIOUS BUSINESS PLANS FOR OPENINGS

PETE'S BLUEBIRD / VFW

Business plans for outside dining at Pete's Bluebird and the VFW were reviewed by the Board. Mr. Wilson, along with the Building Inspector and Fire Dept. have all been out to these establishments to make sure the seating would meet the social distancing requirements. Mr. Forte made a motion to approve the outdoor seating plans for these two establishments. Ms. McGovern seconded and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

TOBACCO REGULATIONS DISCUSSION / BELLINGHAM SMOKE SHOP

Jamil Sheikh, owner of Bellingham Smoke Shop was present for tonight's meeting, to discuss the new Tobacco Regulations that went into effect as of June 1, 2020. Mr. Sheikh is concerned that the new Regulations will put his Smoke Shop out of business, as he would no longer be able to sell most of the items he currently keeps in inventory. Ms. McGovern asked Mr. Sheikh if he would instead like to apply for a convenience store permit in order to offer more items to sell and increase profit. Mr. Sheikh told the Board he did not want a convenience store permit because he tried that in the past and it was not successful. Ms. McGovern also offered the option to possibly apply for a license to sell beer & wine. Mr. Sheikh said he was not interested in that type of license either because there is too much competition around his location that already sells these items. The Board told Mr. Sheikh they will review his request and continue this discussion to the next Board of Health meeting on July 14th.

COMPLAINT - STEVEN ROAD / ANIMAL WASTE

There have been numerous complaints into the office recently regarding animal waste being left on residential properties by dog owners that don't pick up after their dogs. Board members agreed to put up a sign on Steven Road, letting dog owners know that they will be fined for not picking up after their pets. Mr. Wilson will review the sign they have in inventory to make sure the fine amount of \$500 is correct. If sign is outdated the Board will order a new one and have it installed by the Department of Public Works.

OLD BUSINESS

TOBACCO AGENT POSITION – MARILYN EDGE RETIRING

Ms. Edge is retiring as Tobacco agent. The position will be advertised and posted online. Ms. Edge will complete her final inspections and signage in Town before retiring. Board members discussed candidates that have already expressed some interest in the position. Any applicant that is not already trained through the MHOA will have to complete that training in order to be considered for the position. More details will be discussed at the next Board of Health meeting, scheduled for July 14th.

CORRESPONDENCE

EMPLOYEE CALENDAR

Board members reviewed a copy of the employee calendar for the month of July.

HEALTH AGENT UPDATES

NEW AND PREVIOUS COMPLAINTS

Mr. Wilson discussed new and previous complaints that have come into the Board of Health office since the last meeting, held on June 9, 2020.

FOOD INSPECTIONS

Food Inspector, Robert Griffin III, told the Board that he has been working through the list of establishments that are open for business to make sure their inspections are completed by their due date. Mr. Griffin has been using the new electronic software and has been very pleased with the options it has, as well as capability of reporting to the Board instantly. Some establishments recently inspected have had issues that required follow-up visits from the Food Inspector, as well as the Health Agent. Mr. Griffin discussed the possibility of placing a "Letter Grading System" on establishments going forward. Board members said they like the idea of the grading system but will need to discuss further to determine the initial grade, based on inspection averages. The Board would like to revisit this at a later date, when multiple inspections would have been completed with the new electronic software for comparison. Mr. Griffin told the Board that he should have the remainder of 2nd Quarter inspections completed before the next Board of Health meeting on July 14th.

BILLS

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay \$121.58 to W.B. Mason for office supplies. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay \$172.83 to W.B. Mason for digital thermometers. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

BETTERMENT BILLS

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay a Betterment Loan Bill in the amount of \$11,750 to ADC Septic and Robert Spiker for the septic system at 12 Bliss Road. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

Ms. McGovern made a motion to pay a Betterment Loan in the amount of \$21,900 to Phil's Landscaping & Excavating, Inc. for the septic system at 346 Theresa Road. Mr. Forte seconded and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. His motion was seconded by Ms. McGovern and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
Tina M. Griffin

**The next Board of Health Meeting will be held on July 14, 2020 and will be conducted via
Zoom Video Meeting**