



**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
Regular Meeting Minutes**

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY *[Signature]*

2021 OCT - 7 AM 8:09

RECEIVED

August 12, 2021

Members Present

Thomas Pires
Kevin Bernardo

Staff Present

Todd Pilling
Rosalind Grassie
James Aguiar

Members Absent

Matthew Tanis

Call to Order: Chairman Thomas Pires called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Inspectors Reports:

Health Agent Todd Pilling stated the Covid-19 number are increasing. Construction is up and we have a lot of perc test applications. Stormwater inspections have been numerous with all the rain we have been having. The schools are looking for opening guidance and mask recommendations. Mr. Pilling explained that the Pandemic Task Force met and is encouraging everyone to wear a mask in Town buildings.

Mr. Pilling explained that Peter Borges of Borges Bros. Trucking, the Towns bulky waste and recycling hauler submitted a notice of a price increase for New Bedford Waste to accept the towns recycling. Mr. Pilling had foreseen this possible increase and the FY22 budget was calculated appropriately.

He brought the Board's attention to the bulky waste contract the Town currently has with SEMASS. The contract is good through June 2025. Mr. Pilling suggested the Board initiate discussions with SEMASS now and not wait until the contract is up for renewal.

Chairman Thomas Pires brought up the fall Special Town Meeting and reminded the Board about the \$10,000 previously budgeted to hold a household hazardous waste collection day and that the Finance Committee had removed it from the budget. He stated that he will be drafting a warrant article for the fall town meeting requesting a 2% increase over last years \$10,400 event. He explained that he will be requesting \$12,000, please vote in favor at the meeting.

Inspector Reports continued:

Animal Control Officer Stacy Ferry reported that there have been a few dog bites. She had a housing situation, the animal was removed, and is now residing with a relative.

Thomas Pires asked Mrs. Ferry to submit copies of her reports and quarantine forms to the Board of Health office.

Thomas Pires
10-04-21

New Business:

Review / Discuss / Act: 1471 Somerset Avenue Septic Variance Request:

Health Agent Todd Pilling stated that the engineer had contacted the Board of Health office to say that she was ready to notify the abutters and what will be the date of the next meeting.

Motion Kevin Bernardo Thomas Pires stepped down to second and VOTED to table agenda item 4(a) until the next meeting.

Roll Call (2) Ayes

Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires

Review / Discuss / Act: MassDEP Air Sensor Grant

The Board read an email from MassDEP announcing a new grant opportunity for municipalities to purchase at no cost air sensors to measure the levels of particle matter in their respective communities outdoor air. The Board explained that they do not see a need as the Town does not have businesses that would be discharging pollutants that would need to be monitored. The Town Administrator may want to pursue. Todd will reach out to him.

Motion Kevin Bernardo Thomas Pires stepped down to second and VOTED to table discussion until the next meeting.

Roll Call (2) Ayes

Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires

Review / Discuss / Act: Curbside Waste Contract

Health Agent Todd Pilling reminded the Board that the curbside waste and recycling contract with Borges Brothers Trucking expires June 2022. He asked what the Town wants to do? The Board had previously discussed changing from trash bags to barrels. Should the town form a solid waste committee to deal with solid waste, recycling, the transfer station, SEMASS / COVANTA, Recycling IQ, household hazardous waste collection, mercury disposal, etc.

Discussion: Possibly abolish curbside pickup. Require residents to bring their trash and recycling to the transfer station? Send a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to consider creating a solid waste committee.

Kevin Bernardo will volunteer to be a member on the Solid Waste Committee.

Review / Discuss / Act: Gridiron Food permit fee Waiver Request

Motion Kevin Bernardo Thomas Pires stepped down to second and VOTED to reduce the permit fee ½ for non-profit organization.

Roll Call (2) Ayes

Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires

Review / Discuss / Act: Planet Aid Partnership Program.

The Board discussed allowing one (1) clothing recycling bin that could only be located at the transfer station. This would be somewhere residents could drop off textiles if Simple Recycling missed picking up their items. Planet Aid Partnership would pay the town .05 cents per pound collected on a quarterly basis.

Motion Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires stepped down to second and VOTED to recommend one (1) Planet Aid Collection bin at the transfer station.

Roll Call (2) Ayes

Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires

Review / Discuss / Act: Kennel licensing Special Permit Granting Authority

Chairman Thomas Pires explained that the Planning Board is working to eliminate the special permit process needed for a residential kennel. Mr. Pires stated the amended bylaw will only be for residential kennels. Commercial kennels will still need a special permit.

Animal Inspector Stacy Ferry stated that boarding and breeding kennels should still have to be permitted.

It was discussed that kennel permitting is no longer under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health.

Review / Discuss / Act: Contact Tracing

Health Agent Todd Pilling stated the Covid-19 numbers are rising. He explained that it is mostly cases of the Delta variant. The Town Nurse Lori Desmarais is currently working for four (4) Towns and cannot keep up. She is sending all of Dighton's cases to the Contact Tracing Collaborative (CTC). The Health Department needs authorization to assist Mrs. Desmarais with contact tracing town residents. Does the board want us contact tracing?

Chairman Pires stated Town Administrator Mike Mullen thought he had a company, Manet Community Healthcare, that would be able to help the Town with regionalizing with other communities to assist with Town nursing duties. However, Manet does not do contact tracing. Mr. Pires will clarify with the Town Administrator Monday, whether the Board of Selectmen want the Health Department to once again do the contact tracing for the Town.

Old Business

Review / Discuss / Act: Re-schedule Tobacco Regulation Workshop

Review / Discuss / Act: Re-schedule Body Art Regulation Workshop

Review / Discuss / Act: Re-schedule Septic System Regulations Workshop

Discussion: We do not know Matt's schedule. It might be better to coordinate schedules with each member individually. Then schedule the workshops accordingly.

Review / Discuss / Act: Health Agent Job Description and the Health Agent Employment Contract

Chairman Pires stated the Board of Health was scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Mike Mullen August 8th to discuss the health agent job duties and contract but the meeting was postponed until August 18th to coordinate with the Manet briefing.

Mr. Pires explained that Manet does not have Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) access. They cannot conduct epidemiology investigations or contact trace. They offer physician advisory services, vaccine storage and distribution, flu clinic's.

The Board discussed that a town nurse would be more efficient.

Correspondence:

Health Agent Todd Pilling explained the Health Department has had numerous letters from concerned parents regarding mask mandates and the Board of Health's handling of Covid-19.

Discussion: The Health Department only recommended enforcing State regulations to the School District. The Board of Health did not enact regulations stricter and that of the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Public Input

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires stepped down to second and VOTED to approve the July 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

Roll Call (2) Ayes

Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires

Adjournment:

Motion Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires stepped down to second and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Roll Call (2) Ayes

Kevin Bernardo, Thomas Pires

Respectfully Submitted

Rosalind Grassie

These minutes reflect a summary of procedure and discussion for this meeting.