



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

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2020 SEP 14 AM 11:37

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY _____

August 13, 2020

Members Present

Thomas Pires
Kevin Bernardo
Matthew Tanis

Staff Present:

Todd Pilling
Rosalind Grassie
Stacy Ferry

The following meeting was recorded for future broadcast on Dighton cable and you-tube.

Call to Order: Chairman Thomas Pires called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. Chairman Pires explained that the Board members are not wearing their face coverings tonight because they are able to maintain the 6' foot social distance requirement.

Reorganize the Board:

Chairman Pires explained it is customary for a Board to reorganize each appointment period. He stated that he has been chairman for the last few years and asked if anyone else was interested in chairing the Board. Matthew Tanis stated he has more free time now and would be willing to be chairman for this appointment period, but he requested to start at the next scheduled meeting because he may have to leave tonight's meeting early due to personal reasons. Thomas Pires declared all positions vacant and requested nominations.

Motion Kevin Bernardo second Thomas Pires and VOTED to nominate Matthew Tanis as Chairman of the Board of Health.

Motion Kevin Bernardo second Matthew Tanis and VOTED to nominate Thomas Pires as Clerk of the Board of Health.

All in Favor

Aye

New Business:

Review / Discuss / Act: BOH Emergency Supply Inventory:

The Board of Health officer manager brought to the Board's attention that the Board of Health does not have its own stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment

(PPE). PPE is needed for the Incident Command staff as well as Town employees in the event of an emergency. She requested the Board of Health consider ordering a supply of PPE as well as to begin stockpiling an emergency supply inventory.

Discussion: The PPE that was previously at Town hall has been depleted. Most of the supplies were left over from H1N1 and had expired. No one was checking the dates on the inventory. Is there money left in the PHEP or CARE's grants? What about purchasing items with the Emergency Preparedness budget? An assessment should be conducted of what inventory is on hand before we decide what should be ordered. How much PPE will be needed? If the Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) needs to open the State should supply the PPE that will be needed. There should be enough PPE to supply and take care of the incident command staff and volunteers. The emergency supplies should be re-stocked and re-evaluated checking expiration dates every two (2) years to ensure in inventory on hand is adequate and in good condition. At a minimum there should be enough PPE for the Incident Command Staff and volunteers. Conduct an inventory check and defer this discussion to the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to defer this discussion to the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

All in Favor

Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: Transfer Station Roll-Offs Repair / Purchase:

Highway Superintendent Thomas Ferry requested the Board of Health consider purchasing a new roll off, storage container, for the transfer station and also consider repairing two (2) of the existing roll-off containers. The Board viewed photos of the roll-offs that need to be repaired and they also reviewed documents showing the available funds remaining from the FY20 MSRP Grant and FY20 budget funds carried over from the recycle container budget line. Thomas Pires stated that Mr. Ferry told him a new roll-off container would cost approximately \$5000.00 and the repairs to the others would be roughly \$2400.00 each.

There is a total of \$6257.00 funds available for roll off purchases and repairs. Did the town qualify for the MSRP grant again this year? yes. There will be more grant funds available, but they have not said how much money would be available. In January 2020, the Board of Health decided to go forward to conduct a recycling audit with the grant money.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to rescind the January 8, 2020 vote to afford utilizing the grant money for a recycling audit in town due to the current pandemic.

All in Favor

Aye

Discussion: Does the Board of Health need authorization from the Board of Selectmen to purchase a new roll-off? Due to the pricing being over \$1500.00 a requisition order will need to be filled out and submitted to the Board of Selectmen. The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the purchase of a new roll-off container. Get pricing for both, roll off purchases and repairs, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Review / Discuss / Act: 981 Stonegate Landing Tight Tank Installation

Discussion: The owner of the house would like to move in, but the sewer pump station has not been completed. The owner/developer would like to install a temporary tight tank to be used until sewer is available. The installation of a tight tank is a variance from Title 5, and would require a hearing with abutter notifications. The timeline for notifying abutters and the hearing would be almost the same as it will take for the sewer pump station to be up and running. But the developer may file a request.

Review / Discuss / Act: Sweets Knoll State Park:

Chairman Thomas Pires stated the Board of Health received a complaint regarding the Sweets Knoll State Park. The complaint said the field to the rear of the State Park has not been mowed in the last two (2) years and now they are seeing rats. There is very little parking, no access gate or signage stating hours of operation, and no trash barrels at the property. The abutting property owners are having trouble with people parking on their property when they are trying to access the park. People are also driving across their lawn at all hours of the night due to the lack of signage or entryway gate. In response to the complaint he conducted an inspection of the property.

Discussion: The tall grass is a public health hazard and the Board of Health will send a letter to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) requesting they mow the grass, but the other issues do not fall under the Board of Health purview.

Draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen addressing the other issues and make recommendations on how to best address the complaints and concerns of the abutting property owners. The Board feels it would be more appropriate for the Board of Selectmen to contact (DCR) with these issues.

Review / Discuss / Act: Mosquito Risk Level:

Health Agent Todd Pilling requested the Board VOTE to allow him to close all town parks and courts if the mosquito threat level rises to severe rather than the Board wait and have to schedule a special meeting to vote to close the parks.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to authorize the Health Agent to issue a dawn to dusk park closure if EEE reaches severe.

Reminder: notify the Fire Fighters Union if the EEE threat is elevated to high.

All in Favor

Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: Bristol County Agricultural High School Manure Management Plan:

Health Agent Todd Pilling spoke on behalf of the Building Commissioner and stated that the Agricultural High School has formulated a manure management plan and discussed it with him, but they have not submitted a formal plan. He requested they draft the plan and submit it to the Board of Health and Animal Control Officer for review and comments.

Review / Discuss / Act: Food Permit Refunds for Canceled Town Events:

Office Manager Rosalind Grassie explained to the Board that a few vendors from the canceled Cow Chip Festival event have called the office requesting a refund of for their food permit fees. They have been told that there are no refunds but that the Board of Health may possibly consider extending their permits until next year's event.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED if an event is canceled there will be no refunds given but the food permit will be extended to the next year.

All in Favor

Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: Streamline / Consolidate Permit Renewals:

Office Manager Rosalind Grassie explained that the current general permit application needs to be consolidated as well as a few of the permits listed are no longer permitted, and others are permitted by the Board of Selectmen not the Board of Health. She also explained that permits expire at different times during the year. It would be easier for her as well as the vendors if the Board consider consolidating the permit renewal dates to all expire at the same time.

Discussion: Draft a letter to local businesses explaining permits that previously expired July 31st will now expire December 31st to be consistent with all permits renewing and expiring at the same time. The Board also viewed the general permit application and decided to discuss with the Town Administrator who should permit cabins, motels lodge, auctioneers, pet shop, wholesaler, gas and gasoline storage, hawker / peddlers, amusement devices, etc.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to consolidate all permit expiration dates and have all the Board of Health permits renew December 31st. The July permit renewals would be prorated or waive six (6) months of the fee.

All in Favor Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: BOH FY21 Payroll Changes:

The accounting office is now requiring approved and voted on payroll change forms be submitted for all changes in payroll. The Health Agent salary, Animal Inspector salary, Office Manager salary, Health Agent Uniform and Cell Phone allowances were all reviewed.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to approve all payroll change forms.

All in Favor Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: North Dighton Health Concern:

Health Agent Todd Pilling stated that the Board of Health had received numerous complaints regarding vermin sightings in the Bedford Street area of North Dighton. One complaint stated the vermin are out running around the yard now if you want to come see them. An inspection was performed immediately, and many rodents were observed. During the inspection a possible habitat was located. The homeowner was contacted and notified of corrective measures that needed to be implemented. At this point they are complying with all requirements. The situation is being closely monitored.

Review / Discuss / Act: Increasing the Setback Distancing for Smoking Near a Public Building.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to table discussion until all the tobacco regulations have been reviewed.

All in Favor Aye

Old Business:

Review / Discuss / Act: 2321 Fieldstone Drive Kennel License:

It has been a year since Mr. Deeb met with the Board of Health regarding his obtaining a kennel license. The required chain link fencing is still incomplete, there is a gap adjacent to the driveway. The stonewall that is part of the containment is still in disrepair and is a potential area for the dogs to get out.

Matthew Tanis: stated his concern that the Animal Control Officer has been removed from this Board and the Board of Health no longer has jurisdiction over this case.

Kevin Bernardo requested the Board of Health administration brief the Police Chief on the circumstances of this case.

Matthew Tanis we are closing the books on this case and the Board of Health is officially done with this case.

Review / Discuss / Act: COVID-19 Update:

Health Agent Todd Pilling stated the re-opening task force has not met since the last Board of Health meeting.

- a.) **Library:** The library remains open for curbside drop off and pickup only.
- b.) **Prime Time:** Is still closed to the public until further notice.
- c.) **Schools:** Dighton -Rehoboth Regional high School is starting the first two (2) months online. The Bristol County Agricultural High School is re-opening mid-September with in-person classes. Their quarantine room is going to be outside and is very nice.
- d.) **Parks / Recreation / Sports Leagues:** Health Agent Todd Pilling stated the tennis / basketball courts at the old Police Station are closed until further notice due to vandalism of the fencing around the Basketball courts.

Public Input:

None

Inspectors Reports:

Health Agent / Inspector Todd Pilling stated that he could use additional inspection equipment for final grading inspections, a shovel, a level, 100' measuring tape, leather gloves and a probe.

The transfer station has numerous florescent bulbs that need to be disposed of properly.

Mr. Pilling advised the Board that the Town Administrator has questioned why the Health Agent is still needing additional hours and when the additional hours will stop.

Matthew Tanis was concerned and stated the extra hours be worked are needed to ensure the town health department stays on top of the pandemic. The Health Department is busier than in years past. The workload has increased not decreased like in other fields. There is a non-stop barrage of public health issues that are not going to stop.

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to approve the additional hours for the Health Agent up to 35 hours and to approve the expenses associated with final grading inspections.

All in Favor

Aye

Approval of Minutes:

Motion Kevin Bernardo second Matthew Tanis and VOTED to approve the meeting minutes of July 9, 2020.

All in Favor

Aye

Adjournment:

Motion Matthew Tanis second Kevin Bernardo and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

All in Favor

Aye

**Respectfully Submitted
Rosalind Grassie**

**These minutes reflect a summary of procedure and discussion for this meeting. For a complete transcript of the meeting, please request a video copy from the Cable Committee
cablecommittee@dighton-ma.gov.**