

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Melanie Ames-Zamojski & Michael Nelson

Absent: Rachel Stoler

Staff: Ryan Paxton - Health Director for Montague & Anne Stuart – Board of Health Clerk

Other: Julian Mendoza – Greenfield Recorder, Judith Loreli & Mary Kay – Montague Cemetery Commission
& Colleen Doherty – MA in Motion/Senior Center

Melanie Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:04 PM

Minutes:

- May 2023, Minutes
 - The BOH members reviewed the May minutes and accepted them as presented.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the minutes. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson – aye and Zamojski– aye

Director's Report:

- Ryan reviewed the Directors report with the BOH members.
- Highlights included that out of the housing inspections conducted 3 out of the 4 issues have been resolved.
- 12 Federal Street and 96 Third Street have been noted for the AGO receivership program going forward.
- 469 Federal Street has had the condemnation lifted due to the water quality there.
- Ryan noted that he has started annual food inspections.
- There have been 2 Accessory Dwelling Units approved.
- Gina and Ryan did a perc test at Highland Cemetery which will have a green or natural burial site soon.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Director's Report. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson – aye and Zamojski– aye

Nurse Report:

- The BOH members and Health Director, Ryan Paxton discussed filling the position of the Public Health Nurse position with Brittany Tuttle, RN of Turners Falls. Ryan shared his view on her skill set and how the interview went with Brittany.
 - Experience as a school nurse
 - No MAVEN experience but Ryan feels he can train her and help her with onboarding.
 - Experience with blood pressure and program experience
 - Meg Tudryn has expressed a willingness to help train if needed.
- Brittany has available during the day currently; but will have to have hours outside of the 8:00 AM -3:30 PM school day when school is in session due to her full-time school nurse job.

- Discussion with Senior Center/Mass in Motion representative – Colleen Doherty spoke on the need to bring back the nurse to the Senior Center at least 4 hours a week as there is a lack of PCP in the area and such a lag time to get appointments that it would be important to have the Public Nurse be available for questions and concerns from our residents.
- Ryan shared that he met with Roberta Potter, Director of the Senior Center regarding having a Public Nurse available for the high-volume hours at the center.
- Housing a Public Nurse given we lost the Nurse office for a part time administrative person on the first floor might mean the Nurse office will be in the Annex in the future.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept Brittany Tuttle, RN and the contract that was presented and reviewed for the position of Montague's Public Health Nurse. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Zamojski– aye and Nelson – aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- The BOH members reviewed the Animal and Barn Inspector's Report. There have been three quarantines this past month.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Animal/Barn Inspector Report. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson – Aye, Zamojski – Aye

Discussion Relevant Software Agreement:

- The software has been purchased by the Valley Health Regional Collaborative for inspection work only not permitting which would continue with Citizen Serve. Paul Hoffman, who does a lot of housing, feels that this software will help to standardize housing practices.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the Relevant Software Agreement as presented. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson – Aye, Zamojski – Aye

Discussion IMA for Valley Health Regional Collaborative

- The collaborative would provide funding for 5-7 years.
- This also extends the participation of the Public Health Excellence grant.
- The Selectboard has approved Montague's participation in the collaborative.
- Participation will help with shared equipment, inspectional services (agent), steering committee.
- The collaborative needs a representative from Montague to attend and participate in meetings. The meetings are held monthly on Thursdays at 9 AM once a month.
- It was suggested that Michael Nelson be the representative from Montague to the Collaborative.

*Melanie Zamojski **Motioned** to appoint Michael Nelson as the representative from Montague to the Valley Health Regional Collaborative. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Zamojski– aye and Nelson – aye

Discussion: Personnel Updates

- Appointment of Dr. Lepore as Medical Director – tabled for the next meeting.
- Retirement of Anne E H Stuart, Board of Health Clerk. Ryan announced that Anne would be retiring at the end of the month. Anne's absence will be a huge loss for the department both professionally and given all the institutional knowledge that goes with her. Anne's presence for nearly 13 years has benefitted the departments (Planning & Conservation & Board of Health) and the countless residents and vendors she has assisted during her tenure with the town.
- Ryan requested that the BOH members consider allowing Anne to work up to 17 hours a week to help facilitate the workload, offer administrative support to the Director and the ability to assist with training in the future. The job will be posted on the MHAB job board, indeed etc. but first will be posted internally for 5 days according to the NAGE contract.

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to accept the retirement of Anne E H Stuart, Board of Health Clerk with regret and well wishes. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson – aye and Zamojski– aye

*Michael Nelson **Motioned** to appoint Anne E H Stuart as interim Board of Health Clerk. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Nelson – aye and Zamojski– aye

Discussion: Cemetery Commission

- Judith and Mary Kay wanted to come to the BOH today and in the future for periodic updates on what the commission is doing.
- Highland Cemetery and “Woods” section will be for green burial. The season for green burials is April – November.
- There are 150 plots available.
- Mike Fleming has retired from being the caretaker at the cemetery and it will now be under a 5 Year contract with Gleason & Johndrow from Chicopee, MA
- The Commission is in the process of accessing the needs of Old South and Dry Hill Cemeteries.

Discussion: Finance Committee Inquiry

- The Finance Committee every 5 years reviews stipends and has asked the BOH to speak to any changes in the scope, complexity, or time in serving on the committee. Melanie will write a letter on behalf of all the Board of Health members for the Finance Committee.

Topics Not Anticipated

- Melanie Zamojski shared that the CDC has an alert for the first case of Malaria in the United States.
- Rachel Stoler requested that the BOH meeting in July be moved. The new date will be July 26, 2023.
- Arbovirus – State Update

- No aerial spraying at this point
 - No EEE
- Michael Nelson mentioned that EDS received supplies including tables, cones, signage, and a laptop which Michael has the rest of the supplies are in the EDS trailer.

Meeting adjourned: 5:53 PM

Michael Nelson Motioned to adjourn the Board of Health meeting. Seconded by Melanie Zamojski. Motion passes.

Nelson – Aye, Zamojski – Aye

Approved by: _____

Date: _____