

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2024**

Board Members Present: Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland -Chair, Elissa Viarengo (Select Board Representative), Cindie Garland -Interim Board Clerk

0900 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

REVIEW AGENDA

- Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCoG) representative was not present.

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

- January 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Sheila moved to accept the minutes with corrections as written. Ayes: Gene and Susan.

REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT

- FRCoG Updates –Gene will reach out to Kurt for any current information. (UPDATE: Nothing significant to report for February.)

ONGOING BUSINESS:

NURSE UPDATES

- Nurses report: Claire made 7 home visits in January and one person came to the office for COVID tests, stating there was a case in the household. Received \$215.13 vaccine reimbursement from UMass Medical and received \$200.72 in Medicare claims for flu vaccine. Susan stated there are 20 COVID test kits (expires in 15 months) remaining after dispersing about 90. Board members agreed to order more test kits.
- Susan asked when the Selected board would approve the Nurses position. Elissa stated the board will review the job description. Sheila stated the importance of a Nurse position in Heath. Adding, the job description was submitted to Hilma Sumner, Town Coordinator, 2 days after the BOH meeting with the Select Board in December 2023. Elissa stated she will follow up with Hilma for a status.

BOARD OF HEALTH INTERIM CLERK

- Cindie stated she was able to have a turnover with Alice Wozniak and Mary Sumner (previous BOH clerks).
- Cindie will reach out to Liz Jacobson-Carroll from FRCOG to provide on-line permitting system training. UPDATE: Cindie met with Liz on February 29, 2024, at the FRCoG offices in Greenfield. She will provide feedback to the BOH members at the next BOH meeting.
- She reported the balances of the BOH line items:

BOH ACCOUNTS	BUDGET	EXPENSED	BALANCE
BOH Expenses	1,664.00	594.50	1,069.50
Personnel Expenses (Clerk)	8,685.00	1,182.67	7,502.33
Stipends	1,375.00		1,375.00
CARRYOVER ACCOUNTS			
BOH Revolving Fund	11,524.12		11,524.12
Septic Grant	43,840.31		43,840.31

SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

- Gene stated he will continue to reach out to Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development, Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) about the Septic Loan program for Heath. Brian stated the program started in the 90's and FCRHRA was the administrative agency who processed homeowner applications, wrote contracts, closed loans, and made payments to contractors and engineers on behalf of participating towns. Heath had three homeowners go through the program. All loans were administered in 1997. The towns were offered the opportunity to renew their contracts in 2013. The idea was to re-establish the program and re-loan the funds towns had received from paybacks of the original loans. However, a contract between FCRHRA, and the Town of Heath was not executed. Gene will set up a follow-up meeting with Brian to discuss further. Sheila suggested to follow up with Hilma regarding the contract. The BOH would review the applications. Sheila suggested the BOH should revisit the bylaws of the program.
- BOH Revolving Fund for public health and safety issues. Max yearly withdrawal is \$5,000 set by the Select Board.

REVERSE 911 Update

- Sheila stated herself, Tim Lively and Hilma Sumner agreed to look at other systems, including a discussion of defining what is a Code Red and the function. Sheila is hoping FRCoG will have some summary on the systems. The town has 2 years to research new capabilities. Still need to discuss with Selectboard if there should there be a third-person back-up.

MOHAWK AREA PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION (MAPHCO) Update

- Gene stated he attended the meeting on February 5th. MAPHCO is administered by RSI (Responsive Systems Inc.) International. The POC is Randy Cardinelli. Servicing as providing expert level emergency preparedness consulting and real-life response assistance to government agencies and public and private healthcare organizations. Provide policies and procedures for administering emergency dispense sites and any public health emergency. MAPHCO was created when cases of swine flu were on the rise and the towns needed guidance. FRCoG became the central point for assistance

and created an entity to assist in the management of the funds that was dispersed to the towns.

- Susan stated at the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS) meeting the towns discussed the importance of MAPHCO. They felt the fifteen towns work better as a group than the MA entity deciding policies for them. Phoebe at FRCoG stated there is money for training and it will be discussed at the next meeting on the 22nd.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE Update

- Sheila indicated conversations are ongoing with regard to REPC and MAPHCO's roles in Emergency Preparedness.

MOBILE UNIT BY-LAWS Update

- Discussion that the BOH meet with Planning Board and Zoning Boards. Gene will reach out to Doug Mason about Temporary Occupancy Permit and a possible meeting with the BOH.

PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT (PVMCD) Updates

- Susan stated the FRCoG is anticipating a spraying event in June or July. Grants are being explored for tire removal. Susan will send Cindie the posters to be printed and Sheila will laminate them if needed.

HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- Susan will forward the BOH article to the group for review. John Briggs at PVMCD reviewed the article for accuracy. Sheila will verify there is no duplication of efforts from the Town Nurse, FRCoG and BOH articles submitted to the Heath Herald.

NEW BUSINESS:

CPHS OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING REPORT

Opioid Task Force Update

- Discussed how housing and transportation is a critical asset for supporting individuals on their journey of recovery. Participates included members who were going through the recovery program. What would a recovery program look like in the Town of Heath? The group decided to discuss more at a future BOH meeting. The OPIOID settlement refund was received by the towns. CPHS is working with the towns in the administration process of the funds.
- OPIOID Abatement Training will be held March 19 and 20th. Gene will participate.
- MASS Train (34 hours of on-line training). Discussion of the BOH towns progress.

CY 2023 BOH ANNUAL REPORT

- Gene stated the Annual Report for the BOH is due to Hilma Sumner by March 13, 2024. BOH members were asked to submit their inputs to Gene as soon as possible. Cindie will submit a draft to the board members for review and submit to Hilma the final version. (COMPLETED)

REPORTS:

FRCoG Roundtable: No meeting

OTHER BUSINESS:

Elissa was not sure if JRMC is an official posting site for meetings. Sawyer Hall is still the official posting site.

Next Meeting March 20, 2024, 0900

Gene moved to adjourn at 1014; Susan seconded. Ayes: Sheila
Meeting Adjourned 1014.