

**HEATH BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2024**

Board Members Present: Sheila Litchfield, Susan Gruen, Gene Garland -Chair, Cindie Garland - Interim Board Clerk, Randy Crochier -Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCoG) representative.

0901 Meeting Called to Order by Gene Garland

REVIEW AGENDA

REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

- March 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes: Sheila moved to accept the minutes with corrections as written. Ayes: Susan, Sheila, and Gene.

REGIONAL HEALTH AGENT

- Randy stated that Kurt passed the Registered Sanitarian exam, he is now a registered sanitarian. FRCOG is expected to have approximately 20 camps this year in the district. Randy he is working with all the local towns on tobacco and septic regulations. Kurt is scheduled out three weeks with Title V inspections. Randy stated he received a couple property complaints from the BOH clerk and will get out to Heath to look at them soon. Randy stated MGL Chapter 111 Sec. 31 gives the local BOH the authority to make reasonable health regulations. Towns think everything must go through town meetings but a local regulation from the BOH does not. He added that the BOH is very high authority board, if folks start to question their authority refer them to the regulation. He also stated that food trucks are covered in the food code, so the Town of Heath does not need additional regulation.
- Randy spoke about the May 8th public hearing regarding the updated Tobacco and Septic regulations. His team is working on the legal ads. The only hearing that folks must legally advertise is dealing with Title V. There is a requirement after adoption to put a summary in the newspaper. All regulations get filed with DEP. Randy will send the BOH members an email before the May 8th meeting with suggested guidelines. The motions are worded in the positive. Gene reminded everyone to review the regulations before the next meeting. Gene will send an email to the Selectboard regarding the hearing. Randy asked if the board members want a cap on tobacco licenses. Susan motioned to approve one, and Gene second the motion and Susan aye and Sheila aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

NURSE UPDATES

- Nurses report: During the month of March the town Nurse, Claire Rabbitt, RN, made 9 home visits in Heath and one individual came to the nurse's office for a blood pressure check.

- Claire stated the vaccine reimbursements from 12/21/23 to 3/15/24 was \$1,602.56 from Medicare and \$222.59 from other insurance companies. She reserved the flu vaccine for next season, 20 doses of high dose and 10 doses of the standard dose. There are 4 doses of the standard remaining in the inventory.
- because of the TOP revenue. The Board members agreed there are pros and cons to relinquishing the duties of the TOP program. They agreed to discuss this further in the future.
- The board will continue to recruit BOH members.

CPHS OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Sheila spoke of the public hearing that the BOH will have at the May 8th meeting. Revision to the septic and tobacco regulations, endorsed by the CPHS oversight board in March, will be discussed during the hearing. Randy is asking all the towns to revote on the regulations.
- Next CPHS meeting April 25th at 5:00 pm at the FRCoG building. Gene will attend.

EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES

- The BOH members will meet with the Emergency Management Team on April 22 at JRMC to discuss collaboration on Emergency Shelter Management planning in Heath. Shelter Management is a Board of Health responsibility as part of Heath's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

HEATH HERALD ARTICLES

- Sheila will draft an article about the updated Tobacco and Title V regulations that will bring Heath up to current practices. Additionally, the article will include the collaboration of the BOH and Emergency Management Team (EMT) to develop guidance in the management of emergency shelters. The article will also include the June 24th tabletop drill event. This exercise is designed to evaluate Heath's response to a potential infectious disease outbreak within the CPHS communities.

PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT (PVMCD) Updates

Susan stated there was discussion about the following:

- Possible grants for pilot mitigation services and seasonal entomologist program.
- John Briggs and students in Wilbraham are studying mosquitoes to identify the type of mosquitos and their larvae. Exterminating mosquitoes effectively includes attacking them while they are in the larvae stage. There is a strong concern of the habitat of mosquitoes this year and what consist of an epidemic. Culverts, swamps, standing water, and abandoned tires are common areas of habitat. Gene will follow up with Elissa about the Highway department cleaning up the culverts in Heath.
- Transfer of mosquitos from animals to humans was also discussed. Susan will reach out to Mary Sumner, Town Clerk or Kyle Dragon, Animal Control and Inspector, to educate horses owners of the possible risk and should contact their veterinarian for more information. A possible article in the Heath Herald was also discussed as a tool to get the message out. Susan stated the concern is about Tripe EEE (Eastern, Equine, Encephalitis) a viral, vector-borne disease that has a high mortality rate in horses and humans.

- Discussion included how local Board of Health’s would respond to an outbreak, such as West Nile virus. A gathering information venue with UMASS representative was discussed. More guidance will be provided from CPHS/FRCoG in the future. BOH and EMT members are encouraged to attend.

MOHAWK AREA PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION (MAPHCO) Update

- No Updates

OTHER BUSINESS:

- There are 9 official cases of COVID-19, 20 cases of influenza, 3 cases of Lyme disease, and one case of Hepatitis B reported in Franklin County from March 1 – March 14, 2024.
- Claire is in communication with Lisa White, RN at FRCoG to encourage residents over the age of 65 to receive the COVID-19 booster. The additional dose is recommended to protect against an expected summer surge of COVID-19 cases in the area. Lisa is planning to order more doses soon and is requesting an estimated number of vaccines from each town.
- Gene stated in Elissa’s email that the Selectboard has not discussed the Nurse’s position description in the past couple meetings because the focus has been focus on the budget. He said he will follow up with her for an update.

BOARD OF HEALTH CLERK UPDATE

- Cindie advised the group to submit their annual stipend request (\$250) to her. Stipends are submitted in May and paid out in June before the end of the fiscal year.
- She is going to order more dog waste bags for the dispenser that is located near Sawyer Hall.
- Cindie is going to develop an action item spreadsheet to keep track of the tasks that are assigned to members.
- She added that applications/checks are coming in for the TOP and will create a spreadsheet so members can monitor the process.
- Cindie read the email regarding the complaint that she received and recorded the message in the complaint log that is located on the BOH Clerk desk.

MONTHLY BUDGET

BOH ACCOUNTS	BUDGET	INCOME	EXPENSED	BALANCE
BOH Expenses	1,500.00		594.50	905.50
Personnel Expenses	8,685.00		1,589.12	7,063.88
Stipends	1,375.00			1,375.00
CARRYOVER ACCOUNTS				
BOH Revolving Fund	11,524.12	50.00		11,574.12
Septic Grant	43,832.98	14.54		43,847.52

ONGOING BUSINESS:

TEMPORARY OCCUPANCY PERMITS

- Gene met with Doug Mason, Planning Board Chair, about revisiting the zoning bylaws of temporary occupancy in Heath. Both agreed to meet again after the Town elections. Gene also mentioned that Massachusetts have updated the language regarding temporary housing and alternative housing. Gene stated in Elissa's email that the Selectboard has not discussed the Nurse's position description in the past couple meetings because the focus has been focus on the budget. He said he will follow up with her for an update. 105 CMR: Department of Public Health Temporary Housing 410.440 and Alternate Housing 410.710.
- Gene had a previous conversation with Randy about CPHS capabilities to administer the TOP program from Heath. Randy also added that Heath's annual fee for services would decrease because of the TOP revenue. The Board members agreed there are pros and cons to relinquishing the duties of the TOP program. They agreed to discuss this further in the future.
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OTHER BUSINESS:

Next Meeting May 8, 2024, 0900

Gene motioned to adjourn at 1026; Susan seconded the motion. Ayes: Sheila and Gene Meeting Adjourned 1026.