

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
TOWN BUILDING - COUNCIL ON AGING
OCTOBER 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., present were John G. Schuler, M. D. (JS), Susan Green, Chair (SG), Robert DeFrancesco D.M. D. (RD) and Arne Soslow, M. D. (AS) (7:45 p.m.) Also present were Julia Junghanns, Director of Public Health and Patti White Department Assistant.

7:00 p.m. Public Comment – there were none

7:05 p.m. Presentation on the Select Board/Town Manager Act, Board of Selectmen member Tom Fay guest- Leah Anderson (LA)

Select Board member Tom Fay did a PowerPoint presentation for the Board to go through the changes that would occur with the Select Board/Town Manager Act. The presentation discussed the goals of the Select Board/Town Managers Act; one of the most important was the Financial Management structure, as was highlighted in the Collins Report of 2018.

The Board members had a number of questions: Why change now? Why did we have trouble hiring the last two Town Managers? Ms. Anderson explained that the Town Administrator (as it stands now) has 100% of the responsibility of all day to day with the Town, but only retains a portion of the authority over the Town operations. This was noted as a difficulty from Nan Baler, former Town Administrator, when she worked here. When the current organization was developed, it was a much simpler time and now with the complexity of Municipal governments there are increased regulation, financial requirements and public scrutiny. The Board asked for clarification on the Town Managers authority over the Staff, budgets and Personnel. LA: One of the major changes would involve the reporting of the Director of Public Health, at present the Director is under policy direction of BOH and administrative direction of the TA. The Director would report to the Town Manager and all staffing decisions and hiring would be through HR in the Town Manager's office. Currently we send all our staffing/hiring issues through the HR Department, so that would continue. The Board wanted to know if these changes will change/improve the Town meeting process, regarding Town positions on articles and financing. What if the Board of Health wanted money for mosquito control and the town manager didn't agree? Who would decide if it is approved or not? It seems like the existing structure could work with the existing town administrator position and not necessarily need to change the job. Can't some of these initiatives to improve town department functions and structure be done now without changing that position? There are some initiatives that could be pursued at this time but they think would work better with a town manager. Why are there so many projects that were approved at prior Town meetings still not yet completed? Several years ago the Library was funded to be connected to the Town WWTP why has that not done? LA: Not all projects are funded to be done immediately; they may be part of a 5 year Capital Project. What happens if there is a discrepancy between Fincom and BoS, who decides? BoS? Why are the schools not required to be involved with the budget approval process with the BoS? It's the School Committee by law and then fincom approves. Questions were raised regarding town politics and projects; if a Department Head does not issue a permit, will there be pressure from the Town Manager to approve? Political pressure could be an issue on town sponsored projects. The BoS will have the power to intervene if there is a problem. Will a search be done for the position if it is approved? The previous town administrator seem to have a lot of ideas that the BoS didn't agree with, it seemed that the BoS didn't want someone with more power or "manager" role. SG: There was a backup in the process for reimbursements at Fiscal 19 year end, it appears that there was not enough staff to complete the

process; is that going to be addresses? LA: It is hoped that with the Town Manager's act, there will be additional staff to help with the backlogs and that reconfiguring the chain of reporting all processes will become more efficient. Why is the DPW Director spending so much time on contracts and purchase orders? What has changed that is making it so difficult? Support staff is needed at the front office for handling purchase orders. How can we measure the success of the new structure once it is in place? Perhaps there is information in the Collins Center for assistance.

8:15 p.m. Review Budget for FY21

There was a discussion regarding the payroll services budget; money being planned for the additional community health nurse to assist at the Claypit Hill Nursing office. 4 years ago, the board funded additional monies for a substitute nurse to be at CHS for 4 hours a day around the lunch hour (busiest time). Two years ago funds were allocated for 2 additional hours (total of 6 hours per day). Dr. Soslow had some questions and there was a general discussion covering some of the key points from the 2 prior board meeting discussions. Once the position is approved, we will be transferring/allocating approximately \$26,000.00 (depending on when during the Fiscal Year the hiring is completed) out of our sub nursing line item into the community Health Nursing salary line item to offset the full salary amount. We will be asking for an additional \$43,375.00.

There was no additional discussion regarding the salary budget.

Non salary budget

The Board had questions regarding the line item reduction in contractual services; it was explained that our Animal Control officer had retired last year and those duties were combined with the Dog Officer, which is handled by the Board of Selectmen. The funds have been removed from the FY20 budget and have been transferred to the Dog Officer Account

Mosquito control

The State arbovirus plan includes guidance/recommendations for towns regarding testing and surveillance of EEE and WNV and trigger points which recommend spraying for mosquitoes. Some communities are not funded for mosquito surveillance testing and spraying, so there are gaps in the data/surveillance of mosquito-borne illness in the state. The Town of Sudbury sprays regularly; truck mounted spraying, in particular the cedar swamp habitat is found in Sudbury, there are no locations of cedar swamps in Wayland. The Board had concerns regarding a better model, is there a way to handle increased needs? Do they know that spraying helps and how do they know that. JJ will inquire and get information from Brian Farless.

JJ: after discussions with Brian Farless of East Middlesex Mosquito Control (EMMC), he recommends as other communities are doing to have Mosquito control make the decision of when and where to spray as a result of the mosquito testing throughout the town. We could choose to have EMMCP make these decisions for us and/or have a consultation with JJ with a more conservative trigger point for spraying which we can discuss further. JJ recommends that we have a plan in place so we are not in an emergency mode during mosquito season. We should follow the state guidelines that recommend spraying at certain points, we can discuss further but at least we will have the money to do it.

AS: Are there studies that show a reduction in mosquitos with regular spraying; Dr. Soslow will be sending an article to JJ regarding spraying, and does it help? JJ: This was for WNV. Spraying doesn't work as well for West

Nile Virus mosquitos, they hang out up in trees, and would not be affected as much by truck mounted spraying unless they are out flying around. We are looking at mosquitoes that could be carrying EEE which is different and they have different habits than mosquitoes that could carry WNV. Spraying can control populations of mosquitoes reducing populations in general and some diseased mosquitoes.

Larvicide does not affect the type of mosquito larvae that carry EEE, due to where they breed, not typically in catch basins (in crypts in cedar swamps/hard to reach with larvicide).

JJ: we are requesting an additional \$12,400 in funding to allow for 4 rounds of truck mounted spraying,

There will be a Webinar discussion with the State regarding further plans. There are a number of towns in the State that are not involved with any programs for mosquito control. The Great Meadows Wildlife Refug does not do any type of mosquito treatment. They are Federal; they talk about doing something, but they have never set up a plan. Dave Henley (retired superintendent) is working with them to hopefully convince them to create a work plan for mosquito control/emergencies.

If we reach a moderate risk level, we should order truck mounted spraying. We do not have the EEE habitat in Wayland and have never had to manage these issues, this is a whole new mosquito-borne disease problem for Wayland and many other adjacent communities.

AS: this is a rare issue with no strict guidelines. We will look to plan how to handle things next year. JJ: we should discuss further to lay out a general plan so we aren't doing it in an emergency, I would recommend to do some spraying when we are designated as moderate and not waiting until high/critical risk levels.

JJ: EEE is cyclical, we may have 2 to 3 years of continued EEE risk in town; in the future we may be able to reduce this line item. The money will go to the EMMCP and it will be used if we need it and if not it will be rolled to the next year until it is used up. This risk could stay with us due to things like climate change and more mild weather patterns/seasons.

EMMC will increase the areas for mosquito surveillance/testing next year; they are working with entomologist to look at communities in the project area and where they are taking samples. There is only one of the current testing sites in Wayland that would be suitable for EEE testing, so they will work to find a few more areas to sample for next year.

We need to enter this budget into Munis this week, once that is done the front office will set up a meeting with our liaisons from the finance committee and the Board of Selectmen to go over the numbers and answer any questions they may have.

AS: the Board of Health reviewed the presentation from Julia Junghanns, Director of Public Health for FY2021 budget and support the budget as proposed. Second JS: all in favor 4-0

9:00 p.m. General Business

Bills were approved for payment

Sign Boards, website and reverse 911 calls have gone out advertising our 3 public health Flu Vaccine clinics on October 16, 23 and 30th.

Director's report

AS: has been approached by persons with asking about the Shingrix (shingles vaccine) lottery program, is there a better way to hold the lottery? Residents have complained that they put their name in months ago and have not gotten drawn but someone could put their name in today and get drawn in the lottery tomorrow. Staff will touch base with Ruth and look into other options.

Minutes of September 16, 2019.

There was a slight rewording of the subdivision discussion, reword the drainage/ledge discussion

SG: Motion to approve minutes of September 16, 2019 as amended, second JS vote 4-0 (AS as to form)

Town emails- everyone has been assigned a town email address, Board members will need to have passwords reset. JS: I am all set now. JJ: board members are advised to use town email only, effective immediately, it is better for protection of your personal email if there is a public records request it could put your personal information at risk.

New business: JS: I attended the School committee budget meeting the other night and asked about the WHS Wastewater Treatment Plant. When asked about the septic pumping services, they advised me that the fees were about \$160,000 for the past year's pumping. I also attended a DPW meeting and spoke to the DPW Director Tom Holder, who agreed that the number sounded correct and it was probably the same amount for the previous year. In regards to getting the plant up and running again, they have two possibilities; to repair/rebuild the current system or start over with a new system which would be between 800 or 900 thousand to do.

9:15 p.m. Review/Discuss letter from Bedford BOH on EEE Crisis

The Bedford Board of Health has sent out a letter to area towns asking that they "opt in" to district mosquito surveillance and control program. They also sent a draft of language they are asking each Town to use and contact their US Legislators, State Legislators and US Senators to ask them to look at Great Meadow Wildlife and start a discussion for as statewide plan and funding for mosquito control to prevent future outbreaks of EEE, West Nile virus and other mosquito –borne illnesses.

What is MDPH doing about the EEE issues, what is plan? Will they communicate to allow towns to be able to plan? JJ will to discuss with MHOA (Mass Health Officer's Association) they are connected for educational training, partnered with state, maybe they can write letter to State. Bedford has cedar swamps, they were only at Moderate risk and Great Meadow does not have a Federal Management Plan, they were supposed to do. Bedford would like to have legislation to require Great Meadows do a control plan.

MEHA is another organization that may assist as well; we have received a letter from MHOA on vaping.

SG: I agree, working with our associations should be first line.

9: 20 p.m. Update on Development projects

JJ: we are expected to see revisions on the Rivers Edge project. JS: I understand the BOS want to increase the number of units.

Update regarding flavored tobacco and flavored vaping products

JJ: I received a letter from MHOA today about a Flavored Tobacco Ban and taxing on vaping and e- cigarettes. The letter was asking for MHOA members and their boards to contact their State Representatives and Senators to support their bills regulating flavored tobacco products and requesting that those products be taxed at the same rate as combustible cigarettes.

Julia has been in contact with Sarah McColgan, Tobacco Control Program Director for MHOA who has reviewed our Tobacco Regulations and has forwarded a draft of Flavor Regulation Restrictions for our consideration. Should the BOH choose to ban flavored tobacco and flavored vaping products, this would be the same as writing new tobacco regulations, involving Public Hearings, Public Meeting Notices in the newspaper. AS: what is the process if we want to proceed with this process? JJ: we would need to have the draft regulations reviewed by legal counsel. BOH controls permits in Wayland, so we can ban certain products. There are also several area towns that are retiring tobacco permits that are returned (drugstores no longer sell tobacco). Do we want to reduce the number of licenses in town down to 10? We now have 15, two places that just do cigars, do we need to modify these permits to be certain it would be just cigars? When we went door to door to notify businesses about the vaping ban we discovered several businesses that Wayland Minimart and a gas station on Rt. 20 had extensive vaping products. I will work on having some draft regulations for the next meeting.

Next Meeting date will be on 10/21.

9:45 SG: motion to adjourn second all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Patti White
Department Assistant
APPROVED 110419