

The following meeting was broadcast and video recorded.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 6:30 o'clock p.m.

Town Hall Hearings Room

Regular Meeting

Chairman Thomas <sup>J. Pires</sup> Pires called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Health at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. Present were Board of Health members/selectmen Dean V. Cronin, and Patrick W. Menges, Clerk of the Board. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, on a motion of Selectman Menges, the Board voted to approve the minutes of its April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 meeting as prepared by the Clerk of the Board.

**Correspondence**

Serve Safe Training schedule. It was stated that Inspector Kevin Bernardo's Serve Safe Certification is current through April 2015.

**Announcements**

Announcements were read as published on the obverse of the text of the Agenda.

**Old Business**

Under Old Business, the Board considered awarding fifteen hours for Board of Health Clerical Assistant pending funding by the Annual Town Meeting. Chairman Pires read a posting for the position stating that a Clerical Union member currently working twenty hours or less per week would be eligible for the position. If a Clerical Worker with twenty six hours was working six temporary hours, that individual would be eligible, if with the appropriate notice, the temporary hours were discontinued, according to a letter from Clerical Union Agent Joseph McArdle. The Chairman stated that seniority alone would qualify the successful applicant. He divulged that Heidi Swist and Rosalind Grasse had applied. Chairman Pires stated that the Union input is that Heidi Swist has the seniority for the position. Chairman Pires entertained a motion that Heidi Swist be awarded the fifteen hours.

Selectman Cronin stated that the Board had voted fifteen hours in but they won't be in effect until Fiscal Year 2015, which begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked at this time that we table this until the statement from the Union can be clarified.

On a motion of Selectman Cronin, seconded by Selectman Menges, the Board of Health voted to table the awarding of fifteen new clerical hours until after a meeting with Business Agent Joseph McArdle. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**New Business**

Under New Business, Building Commissioner James Aguiar reported that Bristol County Agricultural School is converting the former Director's residence, the historic Standish house on the north side of Center Street, into classrooms and offices, and that plumbing concerns/issues have arisen. He stated that there are code-compliance alternatives for which the school may apply to the State. He read a letter, asking for a variance concerning regulations about the type of water bubbler, and for the use of PVC already in place, instead of replacing the PVC with cast iron, which is required for most public buildings. He recommended that the variance be endorsed by the Board of Health, and that a letter be written to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts so that the former Superintendent's residence can be converted for new uses, without undue plumbing changes. On a motion of Selectman Cronin, seconded

by Selectman Menges, the Board voted to endorse plumbing variances for Bristol County Agricultural High School for the former Director's house, on a voice vote. A letter from the Board of Health will be sent to the State accordingly.

Chairman Pires reported on new Animal Control laws. He explained/gave an overview of the changes in state laws and fees. He read a flyer/brochure, and stated that the Animal Control Officer is no longer the "Dog Officer". He spoke about dog licenses, tags, and collars, stated that kennels must pass inspections of the Animal Control Officer and Building Inspector. Under the new laws, anyone convicted of animal cruelty cannot license an animal for five years. The new laws continue the lower fee for licensing for dogs that are spayed or neutered. Although the new laws allow confinement of strays captured for five days instead of ten days, a ten day quarantine remains in Dighton. Standards for outside shelter requires that dogs be off the ground in the winter, and that they continually have water and shelter. Animal Control Officer Stacy Ferry had attended the seminar concerning the new laws with Chairman Pires. The seminar touched upon kennels, training, boarding, holding, and rescue. Breeding is now considered a business. Personnel: six months for more than four dogs kept under one room. Veterinarians must now have a kennel license to board dogs which they keep after surgery. The new law defines a dangerous dog as one who without justification attacks a person or another animal, and a nuisance dog as one who excessively barks, threatens or attacks livestock, or threatens or attacks people. Chairman Pires said that Dighton is up to date on our laws and in compliance with State regulations. He suggested that a personal kennel be allowed to have up to six dogs on two acres of land.

The Animal Control Officer, Stacy Ferry, reported that Boy Scouts have been working on the Town Animal Shelter on Tremont Street on Saturdays, and will not be working there on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Household Hazardous Waste Day. She reported that coyotes have been sited. They may be out during the day like dogs; but they hunt at night, and look like German Shepherds. They will be howling. There is a large pack of coyotes on Tremont Street. She recommended that pet owners keep small pets indoors. She stated that fisher cats have also been seen; they look like a weasel, are mean, and will attack. They are black, with short legs, three or four inches long, and a long fluffy tail.

Inspector Kevin Bernardo said that food inspection permit renewals will be completed in July.

Chairman Pires stated that the asbestos siding has been removed from the house on Tremont Street that is going to be demolished. He also said that there is a for sale sign on a house on Tremont Street, that is too close to the road.

On a motion of Selectman Cronin, seconded by Selectman Menges, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick W. Menges

Clerk of the Board of Health

