The following meeting was video recorded.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Wednesday June 18th 2014 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Town Hall Hearings Room

Chairman Thomas J. Pires convened the regular bi-weekly (summer) meeting of the Board of Health in the Town Hall Hearings Room on Wednesday June 18th 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, on a motion of Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Cronin, the Board of Health voted to approve the minutes of its regular meeting of Wednesday June 4, 2014.

Chairman Pires read correspondence. He stated that the Board had received a Spider Bite Prevention notice and warned that brown recluse spiders hide in dark, dry areas in attics, closets, and boxes. The brown recluse spider inflicts a bite which while not painful causes redness in the area around it. It will progress from red to blue in color and a scab will form. The black widow spider, identifiable by an orange hourglass shape design on its abdomen, enters the country in imported fruit (Chairman Pires asked Selectman Menges to tell the story of a nephew working in the Produce Department of Shaw's Supermarket, who encountered a black widow spider in a bunch of bananas.) Selectman Pires urged everyone to be cautious and avoid spider bites.

Two announcements were read by Chairman Pires, from the second page of the published two-page agenda for the meeting. He announced that bulky item pick-up will take place sometime this fall. And he then announced that the Board of Health has sharps disposal containers for sale for Dighton Residents only at the office, $3.00 for the quart size, or $6.00 for the gallon size. Once full, they can be brought back to the Board of Health for proper disposal at no additional cost.

The Board proceeded to old business. For the record, Chairman Pires announced that Heidi Swist had withdrawn an application which she had made to be awarded fifteen hours as Administrative Assistant for the Board of Health. He stated that the withdrawal of her application by Heidi Swist left only one applicant for fifteen hours as Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health, Rosaline Grassi. On a motion of Selectman Menges, seconded by Selectman Cronin, the Board of Health awarded fifteen hours a week as Administrative Assistant for the Board of Health to Rosalind Grassi, effective July 1st, 2014.

Patrick W Menges, clerk of the Board.

The Board proceeded to new business, receiving three proposals for Tremont Street Landfill monitoring services. First, from Green Seal Environmental, $13,026.00, second, from Weston & Sampson, for $15,000/$17,000.00. Third, from Lynnfield Engineering, for $10,900.00. Selectman Cronin noted that Lynnfield, however, charges for travel. On a written recommendation of Highway Superintendent Thomas Ferry, which Chairman Pires read, which sited Green Seal Environmental's past performance record, the Board voted unanimously to award the Tremont Street Landfill monitoring service contract to Green Seal Environmental for $13, 026.00. The motion was made by Selectman Cronin, and seconded by Selectman Menges.

The Chair brooked the subject of a weekend part-time on-call Animal Control Officer, and gave the background concerning this item. Animal Control Officer Stacy Ferry recommends that a Certified Animal Control Officer be on call on weekends. There is $2,040.00 in the budget although ACO Ferry received $25.00 per call when she started as an Animal Control Officer, Selectman Cronin noted in his notes, that the weekend Animal Control Officer now should be paid by salary only. He stated that he

had an interested party for the position. Selectman Menges asked who the interested party was, and was told, Delfin Diosomito. It was agreed by consensus that the interested party would be invited to appear at the July 2, 2014 meeting of the Board of Health. It was noted that free training for ten weeks would occur between March and May 2015. It was further discussed that the individual should be paid by salary only.

The matter of rubbish pick-up on Tony's Way, which is not yet an accepted town road, wherefore its residents must carry their trash up their street to Elm Street for pick-up, was discussed. It was voted to table action to require the hauler to pick up trash on Tony's Way, because of the lack of a necessary waiver of liability or insurance policy. The motion to table was made by Dean Cronin, seconded by Selectman Menges, and passed on a unanimous voice vote.

The Dighton Water District notified the Board of Health in writing of three illegal cross connections at Pleasant Street properties through which the public water supply could be contaminated by the siphoning of brackish water through hoses at the riverside. Board members silently read notifications that had been sent to the riparian property owners concerned. The Board was told by Building Commissioner James Aguiar that the plumbing inspector is aware, and is talking with property owners to achieve compliance with health restrictions related to these cross connections.

The Board reviewed, discussed, and approved by consensus a Massachusetts Department of Public Health Mini-Grants request for response. A targeted grant under this program, would provide opiate abuse funds for sharps disposal, and training to improve our opiate abuse program by helping to pay for replacing sharps disposal cartons and assist in purchasing sharps disposal supplies. The deadline for applications for these Mini-Grants is July 18th. The grant award will be announced on July 25th.

Inspectors Reports included a warning by the Animal Control Officer Stacy Ferry, that snoutless breed dogs will die in the summer heat (bulldogs, etc.). Dogs will not be tolerated in cars in this hot weather. It is not enough in the summer, to leave a dog in a car with the window open. The sun on a car roof superheats the interior of the vehicle, and may cause a dog great suffering before death. When such situations are found, Animal Control will smash a car window to rescue a dog, and the owner of the dog will be cited. Dogs must have adequate water at all times in the summer.

Building Commissioner James Aguiar said concerning abandoned homes, that he will send Health Inspector Kevin Bernardo to cite unmowed lawns, such as 420 Lincoln Avenue, North Dighton. Building Commissioner Aguiar predicted that 420 Lincoln Avenue is going to be a problem for a long time because the owner is not sure which way he will go with his investment. The Building Commissioner also said that a recycling facility being run from a location at 1997 Somerset Avenue, across the street from the notorious Tyvek house, will also receive a visit from Inspector Bernardo.

The Building Commissioner warned of the danger of swimming pools to children. More than one hundred children a year die in the United States from swimming pools, he said. Pools less than 58" tall above the ground (no external barrier) must be fenced. The Building Commissioner said that he would be happy to go out and look at anyone's pool – if it doesn't meet the criteria, it must be fenced, or it must be removed. He also announced that the Town of Freetown is losing its Health Agent, and asked if our town could help?, on a temporary basis. It was said that there will have to be some sacrifice on their end.

There was no public input.

On a motion of Selectman Cronin, seconded by Selectman Menges, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick W. Menges

Patrick W. Menges
Clerk of the Board of Health