



*Board of Health  
979 Somerset Avenue  
Dighton MA. 0215*

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*Wednesday September 16, 2015  
6:30 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes*

RECEIVED  
2015 OCT 13 PM 3:30  
TOWN CLERK  
DIGHTON, MA

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Patrick Menges called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

**Present:**

Chairman Patrick Menges and Dean Cronin.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all.

**Approve Minutes:**

**Motion Dean Cronin, to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 2, 2015 as prepared by the clerk to the Board of Health.** Patrick Menges, I'll step down and second the motion. Is there any discussion? If not those in favor of the motion indicate by saying Aye.

Aye, Opposed no, the Aye's have it the motion carries.

**Correspondence:**

**Chairman Patrick Menges:** We have an Arbovirus Surveillance Report from the Health and Homeland Alert Network. The risk level for regarding positive West Nile Virus mosquito samples in Taunton and Easton is being changed to moderate. The second bulletin dated September 10, 2015 stating that positive samples of West Nile Virus were also found in Swansea Massachusetts and the third letter was from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health announcing a second reported case of West Nile Virus.

**Please take precautions and protect yourselves and your loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitos.**

- Apply Insect Repellent When Outdoors
- Be aware of Peak Mosquito Hours
- Drain Standing Water
- Clothing Can Reduce Mosquito Bites
- Install or Repair Screens in Windows

**Selectman Dean Cronin read the announcements:**

**He added to the announcements that there is no sharps disposal at the Police Station that all syringes and sharps containers need to be brought to the Board of Health Office at Town Hall. The Prescription Drop Box at the Police Station only accepts medications in pill form only.**

**Town Nurse Bethany Collins** asked why residents need to by a recycle sticker? Selectmen Cronin explained that the recycle bins are small and we only have pickup every 2 (two) weeks. We are now allowing residents to purchase their own bins, any size that they want and all they need to do is purchase a sticker from the town for \$1 to clearly mark the container as recyclables.

**Old Business:**

**Progress Toward a Professional Director of Public Health.** Chairman Patrick Menges explained that the Board of Health is seeking expressions of interest in a position of Director of Public Health from possible candidates'. We want to follow up on the conversation that we had with Public Health Official Ron O'Connor of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health who was kind enough to share with us his insight and proposed that we reach out to area towns. Perhaps a town in the area has a director or senior agent of Public Health who might be willing to share his wisdom and time with Dighton. The Board is in the process of drafting a letter to send to area Towns. Mr. O'Connor is committed to provide us a template that such a letter might follow but in the mean time we have a draft to consider. The invitation that we plan to send will consist of (3) three parts.

- 1. It will describe the Board of Health and it functions as we see them and the work of our agents**
- 2. It will describe what we consider will be the advantage of our having a Director of Public Health**
  - Duties,
  - Responsibilities
  - Advising the Board
  - Being a Professional Guide for the Board
  - Someone who can ensure continuity in Public Health Policy and Administration
  - Overseeing, guiding and supporting the work of our public health officials.
  - We have a number of well-trained eminently qualified Public Health Officials
  - Animal Control Officer
  - Town Nurse
  - Title V Inspector
  - Food Inspector etc...

We need to ensure that they are properly supported by a sound budget, someone who can go with them to obtain an administrative warrant, apprised of training requirements and the training opportunities are made available to them so that they can maintain their credentials and who can expedite the process of reports to the state. Above all a director of Public Health needs to be able to mentor our staff, inspire the best possible performance, streamline the operation and see to it that there is consistency. So that no matter who the politicians are on the Board of Health things are done in a dependable streamline fashion and result in effective responses to public health challenges.

### **3.) Qualifications**

Bachelor's Degree and certifications in areas that concern us, animal control, food inspections, Title V inspections, Storm water drainage regulations etc... in as many of these areas as we can obtain. The pursuit of qualifications will be invited. If we have somebody who has the heart and the will of how to streamline the department the fact that they aren't qualified in all areas upon starting is not going to keep them from being considered if they exhibit and are willing to commit too pursuit of additional qualifications after they are appointed.

**4.) Concluding paragraph with how to get in touch with the Board.** This is only a draft. It is not sufficiently honed for us to be able to vote on it tonight. A director of Public Health is coming and we have means of overcoming the budgetary constraints to make it happen.

**Chairman Menges and Selectmen Cronin want to thank everyone who has supported us in our quest to advance this Board into a meaningful institution for the future of the Town.**

### **Approve a letter to surrounding Towns Seeking Interest in a Directorship of Public Health:**

This the draft that we just dismissed out of hand and we still have to work on it

### **New Business:**

**Town Nurse Bethany Collins**, would like to discuss changes in Public Health Emergency Preparedness in our town. Ms. Collins explained that there are a few things that she would like to bring to the Boards attention.

Monthly she represents Dighton at the Region 5 meeting for emergency preparedness. We have had Amy Palmer as our planner and now she is no longer going to be our planner. The new planner is Denise Phaneuf. There are certain things that the public health in the region has to accomplish during a budget year. We are currently in the budget year BP4. We generally have quarterly call down drills through the HANN and everybody that is on the emergency list has to call in within a certain time. There is a general alert that goes out over the telephones and the internet and then they check and see how quickly we can respond if there was an emergency. She mentioned that it is important to keep that list up to date and with the new select person coming in the list should be updated as soon as possible.

Emergency preparedness has been evolving and came into being right after 911 occurred. What is going to happen now is a new group is forming. It is going to be made up of all 5 medical and health disciplines. It is going to be known as HMCC; Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition. It

is a new group that is being formed and the 5 groups that will sit on this new coalition, Long Term Care Facilities, Community Health Centers, Emergency Medical Services, Local Public Health and Hospitals. There will be a meeting

September 29, 2015 in Wareham Mass. 9:00 AM till noon and they would like as many people there as possible. Bethany asked that she would like to attend and asked for the Boards approval to attend and if anyone from the Board would like to attend with her. She stated that there will be another meeting in the BP4 period and it will involve our emergency plans and updating them. Denise Phaneuf is having a meeting with all the towns to look into these plans and have better ideas to upgrade them. These are the things that I needed to report to you. Does anyone from the Board want to go?

**Chairman Menges** entertained a motion to give approval to the Town Nurse to attend the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September in Wareham.

**Motion Dean Cronin, stepdown second Patrick Menges, is there any discussion? If not then those in favor of the motion say Aye. Opposed .... The Ayes have it the motion carries.**

**Chairman Menges** asked when they say improve our emergency preparedness plans they must mean the regional plan for a contagion or an outbreak in that region? Is that correct

**Town Nurse:** Each Town is going to be looking at their own plans and how we could help one another if an emergency should occur. We have been looking at an emergency dispensing site which we planned at the Dighton Middle School. They have also discussed a drive through emergency dispensing site. They looked at Manheim New England as a possibility. But they also say that Taunton may participate as well. There are still things that need to be ironed out.

**Selectman Cronin:** You bring up using the lanes at the Manheim Auction. Is that agreement all in place to use that facility?

**Bethany Collins:** I'm not certain where that stands. Amy Palmer was working on that and I certainly will ask Deni where we are at on that.

**Selectman Cronin:** This EP4 has a breakdown of 5 classifications how will the budget work?

**Bethany Collins:** It is being held by the Mass Association of Health Boards. They are the sponsoring organization they are the ones that will handle the budget. It is not going to affect the budget that we have for just the Board of Health. There are separate budgets for all the other disciplines. I'll find out more about it when I go on the 29<sup>th</sup>. It will not affect our budget for EP4 and 5 as well.

**Chairman Menges:** A public health emergency can happen with very little notice. Preparation is everything. Therefore this Board owes you a debt of thanks for being willing to go on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September to Wareham. The 29<sup>th</sup> is a Tuesday, 9:00 AM we will have a new

Selectman by then and among the (3) three of us we should be able to make some representation.

**Bethany Collins:** I just have to let them know how many will be attending.

**Inspectors Reports:**

None

**Public Input**

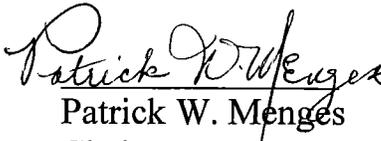
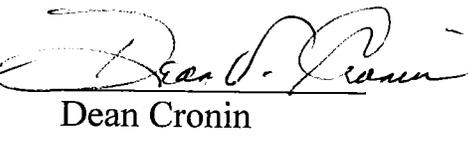
**None**

**Adjournment:**

Motion Dean Cronin second Patrick Menges to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM

**All in Favor**

**Aye**

	
Patrick W. Menges Chairman	Dean Cronin Member

Respectfully Submitted

Rosalind Grassie/ Administrative Assistant