



**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARD OF HEALTH
Workshop Notes**

August 4, 2022

Members Present

Barbara Catabia
Charlene Bonenfant
Nicole Mello joined the meeting at 5:15 P.M.

Staff Present

Todd Pilling left the meeting at 5:00 P.M.
Rosalind Grassie

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
[Signature]

2022 AUG 16 AM 9:39

RECEIVED

This was a public workshop meeting. This meeting was not video, or audio recorded.

Call to Order: Chairman Barbara Catabia called the meeting to order at 4:34 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Workshop:

Educate new Board of Health Members to the Duties and Responsibilities of the Office, Office Staff, and Board Members:

Charlene Bonenfant explained the Board of Health is the silent side of public safety. Does this board want to expand to become a Health and Human Services department? Possibly combine services with the Council on Aging, partner with the police to educate the schools on substance abuse, hire interns for research, statics, and funding for health services, broaden programs and also add services?

5:00 P.M. Todd Pilling left the meeting.

Health Department duties and responsibilities were discussed. It was noted that numerous responsibilities should possibly be under other department's purview: stormwater, emergency preparedness, transfer station and its related programs, solid waste etc. Should these duties be moved to other respective departments? Which direction does the health department want to work towards? Expand programs to include human services or restructure without the duties of stormwater, emergency preparedness, etc.

5:15 Nicole Mello joined the meeting.

Would it be best to keep all the current responsibilities within the health department and expand the department? The current job descriptions, duties, and responsibilities of the office staff were discussed. The Board inquired about the health agent's current job description and the time needed for each duty. They requested the office staff track their time for each job duty and be ready with numbers to discuss at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

5:20 The workshop ended; Charlene Bonenfant left

5:25 P.M. Selectmen Leonard Hull entered; he thought the meeting started at 5:30 P.M.

5:30 P.M. Building Commissioner James Aguiar; entered, he was at a brush fire.

Selectman Hull asked Mrs. Catabia and Mrs. Mello if they could continue the discussions regarding the restructuring of the Health Department.

Mr. Hull inquired about the status of the Health Agent's contract negotiations? Mrs. Catabia explained the negotiations stalled and there have been no further meetings scheduled. Mr. Hull stated the contract negotiations started over a year ago. This is unacceptable. He requested the Board draft a letter to the Selectman's office requesting to be added to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda to schedule contract negotiations with the full Board of Selectmen and full Board of Health.

Mr. Hull then asked about the reorganization of the Health Department? He inquired about stormwater and stated that when the Board of Health met last year with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the health agent's job description, then Board member Kevin Bernardo, stated that stormwater should not be part of the health agent's job description. Mr. Hull explained that he agreed with Mr. Bernardo. Mr. Hull stated this is a new board and now is the time to restructure and reorganize of the Health Department.

Building Commissioner James Aguiar added to the discussion that his availability for assisting the Health Department with housing complaints and inspections has diminished. He is now also the facilities director, and his time is very limited. He inquired about the Health Department's upcoming regionalization with other nearby towns. Would the regional inspector be able to assist with housing inspections? Town Nurse and Board member Nicole Mello explained that is the intention of the program, however she is apprehensive about the availability of the inspectors with five towns sharing those inspectors.

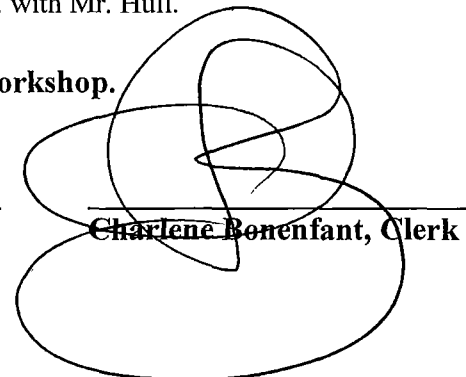
The status of the results of the clerical union wage study were asked about. Mr. Hull said the results are back and will be distributed to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting. Chairman Barbara Catabia stated that she has discussed with Union Representative, Joseph McArdle, the possibility of re-evaluating the Board of Health Office Manager position now and not waiting for the clerical union contract negotiations. She explained that Mr. McArdle said that if the job duties and responsibilities have substantially increased the position may be pulled out of the wage study and negotiated separately. Mr. Hull recommended the board send a letter to the Board of selectmen a requesting the re-evaluation be negotiated now separate from the wage study negotiations due to the change in job duties and responsibilities.

The workshop discussion will to be continued Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. prior to the Board of Health regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Hull stated that he would be attending the County Commissioners meeting at 6:00 p.m. and would not be able to stay for the regular meeting. Mrs. Catabia and Mrs. Mello discussed starting the regular meeting at 4:30 p.m. and continuing the workshop until 6:00 p.m. Then attending the Commissioners meeting at 6:00 p.m. with Mr. Hull.

These notes reflect a summary of the discussion for this workshop.


Barbara Catabia, Chairman


Nicole Mello


Charlene Bonenfant, Clerk