



**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**
Regular Meeting Minutes
Old Town Hall
1111 Somerset Avenue
Thursday September 8, 2022

Members Present

Barbara Catabia
Charlene Bonenfant
Nicole Mello

Staff Present

Todd Pilling
Rosalind Grassie

Town Officials Present

Board of Selectman Chairman Leonard Hull

Call to Order: Chairman Barbara Catabia called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Roll Call: Nicole Mello, Charlene Bonenfant, Barbara Catabia

Committee Business:

Review / Discuss / Act: Applicants for Solid Waste Committee; Shawn Urban, Thomas Pires, Ray Hague and recommendation of a new member to the Board of Selectmen.

Health Agent Todd Pilling gave a brief overview of each candidate's credentials. He stated candidate Shawn Urban is working on his Capstone Project for his Master's Degree. He is going to be the numbers cruncher for the committee. Thomas Pires was chairman of the Board of Health and was also a Selectman for many years and has worked on solid waste for years. Raymond Hague is the Veterans agent for the Town who is coming out of Fall River where he dealt with the municipal solid waste program. All three have a lot of knowledge but there is only one open slot on the committee.

It was moved by Charlene Bonenfant, seconded Nicole Mello, and VOTED to recommend the Board of Selectmen appoint Shawn Urban to the Solid Waste Committee.

Roll Call Vote (2) Ayes (1) Nay

Charlene Bonenfant Aye, Nicole Mello Aye, Barbara Catabia Nay

Discussion: Would alternate, non-voting members be a valuable addition to the committee.

It was moved by Charlene Bonenfant, seconded Nicole Mello and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY on a roll call vote to recommend the Board of Selectmen appoint Ray Hague as an alternate non-voting member of the Solid Waste Committee.

TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA
BY [Signature]

2022 NOV -9 AM 11:59

RECEIVED

Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

It was moved by Nicole Mello, seconded Charlene Bonenfant, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY on a roll call vote to recommend the Board of Selectmen appoint Thomas Pires as an alternate non-voting member of the Solid Waste Committee.

Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: Emergency Preparedness Committee Request to Dissolve the Committee

Health Agent Todd Piling stated the Emergency Preparedness Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Health. Emergency Preparedness generally falls under the Fire Department not the Board of Health. The Emergency Preparedness Committee voted to request the Board of Health transfer oversight of Emergency Preparedness to the Fire Chief and dissolve the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

It was moved by Charlene Bonenfant, seconded Nicole Mello, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen recommending they transfer oversight of the Emergency Preparedness Committee to the Fire Chief and to dissolve the committee as requested by the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: Transfer Station Attendant Wage Increase

Health Agent Pilling stated the transfer station attendant is currently paid \$17.56 an hour. There is a lot of responsibility and discretionary judgement that is needed in dealing with trash and recycling disposal. Mr. Pilling stated that after reviewing the budget there is currently \$1,000 budgeted in additional hours / overtime, for backup coverage either by the highway employees or another attendant once one is hired to cover the transfer station when Mr. Lawrence is out.

Discussion: Agent Pilling explained that the Board may want to consider budgeting in FY24 for another attendant who would also work Saturdays. It is very busy; residents discard their items in the wrong storage containers and those items need to be removed and disposed of properly. Another worker to watch and assist residents with the disposing of their recycling would be beneficial.

The Board reviewed a spreadsheet drafted by the health agent showing two (2) possible wage increases for the attendant. One scenario increased the pay rate to \$20.00 an hour the other was an increase to \$21.00 an hour that would utilize the \$1000.00 presently budgeted for FY23.

Motion Charlene Bonenfant, seconded Nicole Mello, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to increase the Transfer Station attendant's wage to \$20.00 per hour. starting November 1, 2022.

Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: Mattress Disposal Contract, and Transfer Station Disposal Fee

Health Agent Pilling explained the Solid Waste Committee is still discussing mattress disposal.

Motion Charlene Bonenfant, seconded Nicole Mello, and VOTED to table discussion.

Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

Review / Discuss / Act: Board of Health Holiday Meeting Schedule

Health Agent Pilling informed the Board that the November regular meeting will fall on Thursday, November 10th Veterans Day. He recommended moving the November meeting date to Thursday, November 17th. The meeting time was discussed, and it was agreed to meet at 4:30 P.M.

Motion Charlene Bonenfant, second Nicole Mello and VOTED to change the Thursday, November 10th meeting date to Thursday, November 17th at 4:30 P.M.

Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

Motion Charlene Bonenfant, second Nicole Mello and VOTED to change the Board of Health meeting time from 6:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. starting October 13, 2022.

Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

Public Input

Selectman Hull inquired about the Health Department's overtime situation. He asked if the Board was meeting with the Town Administrator prior to the upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting. He recommended a discussion regarding the overtime situation and agenda item 5(a).

Inspectors Reports

Animal Inspector: Mrs. Ferry as not present. Health Agent Pilling that he would be able to give the animal inspector report. He stated there have been a couple of incidents with animals. There were (4) Pigs running around loose. Once the owner was found they were informed that you cannot raise more than (3) pigs at a time because then it is considered a piggery and piggeries are not allowed in Dighton. Mr. Pilling also stated that there was also an issue with a cow and a goat getting loose and wandering into a neighbor's yard. Both animals were caught and returned to their owners. This problem is ongoing and has been a problem for quite some time. The Board members discussed concerns regarding the animal inspector. Health Agent Pilling suggested an executive session meeting to discuss further.

Town Nurse: Board member Nicole Mello stepped down as a Board of Health member to spoke as the Town Nurse. Mrs. Mello stated that last month the distribution of Covid-19 testing kits,

received through the Excellence Grant began. The test kits are available at the Council on Ageing, Prime Time, the Library, and the Board of Health office.

She explained that Bela Powell, Director at the Council on Aging, reached out to the Board of Health regarding an inquiry from a retired nurse who lives at Lincoln Village who was willing to help residents learn how to administer Covid-19 tests on themselves. She stated she thought that was a great idea, but she also thought it would be good if she was also there. Mrs. Mello stated that she will also be attending the meeting. She will also be able to help teach people how to administer Covid-19 tests.

Mrs. Mello will be going to Prime Time to talk about Emergency Preparedness because it is Emergency Preparedness month. She will also be going to Lincoln Village in October to discuss medicine management. She then gave a Covid-19 booster update. She explained that a new booster is available but there are many variables to consider. It is best to consult with your primary care physician.

Mrs. Mello stated that she attended a grant meeting. There is going to be a capacity assessment coming through from the Excellence Grant. She explained that she thinks it will be going the Health Department because they will have the ability to look back for the requested information. They will be looking for pre-covid years information. The State is looking for what was being accomplished and where the health department could use some help.

She stated that she is working on scheduling a Flu Clinic the end of October. She will also be scheduling a blood pressure clinic, the dates will be posted in the Strawberry Vine.

Board member Charlene Bonenfant stated the opioid settlement funds have begun to trickle down to the Towns. Narcan and Fentanyl strips are available for first responders at no cost to the town through the settlement fund.

Health Agent: Todd Pilling explained that Eastern Equine Encephalitis EEE mosquito has been found in Berkley. There have been no human or equine cases reported. Agent Pilling stated that he asked the Town administrator, Michael Mullen if he could stop drafting the weekly covid reports requested by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Mullen said the Board of Health needs to vote to stop the reports.

Motion Charlene Bonenfant, seconded Nicole Mello, and VOTED to request the Board of Selectmen Vote to cease and desist the request for weekly Board of Health covid-19 reports.
Roll Call Vote (3) Aye

Health Agent Pilling stated that the office is falling behind with the volume of perc tests and plan reviews being submitted. At this time, we are scheduling perc tests into November and plan reviews are falling behind due to the requirement of attending nighttime meetings. The Board members stated we are a small department expected to do a lot of work.

Selectman Hull inquired about the overtime deficiency and funding the additional overtime for the department that is needed for the remainder of the fiscal year. He suggested a meeting with the Town Administrator to discuss the overtime situation.

The ARPA funds were discussed. Selectmen Hull stated that the Town Administrator will meet with the Board of Health to discuss potential ARPA funds for the Health Department. Capital Outlay will be involved in these discussions. Selectman Hull stated that County and Federal funds have different requirements. With Federal funds the Town receives the money before and then spends down. With County funds you must submit a project. Then Capital Outlay Committee will review and approve. Next the Board of Selectmen give their approval. Then the request is sent to the County Commissioners for approval. They have the final approval.

Public Input:

Selectmen Hull inquired about the status of Shawn Urban and his membership on the Solid Waste Committee. Mr. Urban is the member at large. Mrs. Catabia is the Board of Health representative.

Approval of Minutes:

Charlene Bonenfant stated there was a couple of revisions that she would like made to the draft minutes before they are approved.

Motion Charlene Bonenfant, seconded Nicole Mello and VOTED Unanimously to table the minutes until the October meeting.

Roll Call (3) Ayes

Adjournment

Motion Charlene Bonenfant second Nicole Mello and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 P.M.


Barbara Catabia, Chairman


Nicole Mello

Charlene Bonenfant, Clerk

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