



**TOWN OF DIGHTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

Joint Board of Health / Board of Selectmen Meeting

October 17, 2022

Members Present

Barbara Catabia
Nicole Mello

Selectmen Present

Leonard Hull
Kenneth Pacheco
Peter Caron

Staff Present

Todd Pilling
Rosalind Grassie
Karin Brady

Town Officials

Michael Mullen

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barbara Catabia at 4:16 P.M.

This was a public meeting being video and audio recorded for future broadcast.

Roll Call: Nicole Mello, Barbara Catabia

Mass. Associations of Health Boards (MAHB) – Overview of Board of Health Roles and Responsibilities

(MAHB) Officials Present:

Michael Hugo, Director of Policy and Government Regulations
Cheryl Sbarra, Executive Director and Senior Staff Attorney

Mr. Hugo stated the Public Health Excellence grant will assist the Town of Dighton with shared Public Health services. He explained that there are many new charges for Boards of Health. He then presented a slide show depicting the responsibilities of the Boards of Health. Cheryl Sbarra held up the Local Public Health from A to Z showing all previous, Board of Health charges. Ms. Sbarra stated Boards of Health are invisible if everything is working right. She discussed dedicated State funding, municipalities not meeting statutory and regulatory requirements. The Excellence Grant will assist through sharing health services requirements throughout the Commonwealth.

Discussion: how long before the shared services will be available to towns? Mr. Hugo and Mrs. Sbarra stated that they were working towards the end of the year but thought that mid- January was a more realistic timeline for the initial shared services to begin.

Public Input was allowed and Building Commissioner James Aguiar inquired about the workforce staff. Where will these new shared services employees come from? Concern over current Boards of Health staff possibly being lost to the collaboration.

Former Board of Selectmen Nancy Goulart stated the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health separated because of the expanding duties and responsibilities of the Board of Health. Previously out-sourced job duties were brought in house. You need to optimize the strengths and qualifications of the employees you have. Then farm out all the other duties. The Board of Health should consider a returning some services to outside sources. She explained that the discussion regarding organizing the Board of Health is not correct. You are re-organizing the department under the Board of Health.

RECEIVED
2022 NOV -9 PM 12:00
TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MASS
pjt

Old Business:

Proposed Re-structure Plan – During the October 3, 2022 joint meeting the Board of Selectmen members requested the Board of Health present an expanded explanation of the current duties and responsibilities of the Board of Health. An expanded flow chart was submitted. The duties were reviewed and discussed. It was noted that some current duties are in the process of being moved to other departments. Emergency Preparedness is no longer under the Board of Health it now falls under the Fire Chief. However, emergency dispensing sites will remain with the Board of Health. Animal Inspector is moving to the Police Department. But permitting still needs to be discussed and allocated to the proper department. Stormwater was brought up and it was agreed that stormwater, transfer station, Solid Waste and Animal Welfare should be separate standalone meetings. There is too much to discuss with regards to these programs to combine the discussions. Highway Superintendent Thomas Ferry, Fire chief Chris Maguy, Animal Inspector Stacy Ferry, and Stormwater chairman Nancy Goulart, will need to be involved in those discussions.

Review / Discuss / Act: Health Agent Job Description

Selectman Leonard Hull stated there is a proposal from the Board of Health for the re-evaluation of the Office Manager position. If changed some of the health agent duties would be added to that position. It was noted this discussion should be in executive session because the position is part of the clerical union and if the position is changed position it will need to be posted. There may be more qualified candidates.

Possible dates for the next joint meeting were discussed. It was agreed to schedule the next joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health for Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

It was moved by Nicole Mello, Barbara Catabia stepped down to second and VOTED to table discussion until the next meeting.

All in Favor, Aye

New Business:

Review / Discuss /Act: Stable / Barn Permit Fee waiver request for Apache Way Farm Rescue, Inc.

It was moved by Nicole Mello, Barbara Catabia stepped down to second and VOTED to table discussion until the next meeting.

All in Favor, Aye

Review / Discuss /Act: Food Permit Fee Waiver Request for West Dighton Christian Church –

Non-profit permit fees were discussed. It was noted that the previous Board of Health reduced non-profit permits by 50%. That would still allow funds to pay for the health agent’s inspection.

It was moved by Nicole Mello, Barbara Catabia stepped down to second and VOTED to reduce the permit fee by 50% pending the submittal of requested additional documents.

All in Favor, Aye.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Nicole Mello, Barbara Catabia stepped down to second and VOTED to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 11, 2022, and September 8, 2022 and the special meeting minutes of September 14, 2022, October 3, 2022, and October 11, 2022.

All in Favor, Aye.

Discussion: Schedule Board of Health member interviews and also reschedule the October 13, 2022 Board of Health meeting that had to be canceled. Possible dates were discussed. The Board of Health member interviews were scheduled Monday, October 24, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. The regular Board of Health meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

It was moved by Nicole Mello, Barbara Catabia stepped down to second and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Rosalind Grassie


Barbara Catabia, Chairman


Nicole Mello
