

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Nelson (in person), Rachel Stoler (in person) and Melanie Ames-Zamojski (Zoom)

Staff: Ryan Paxton, Health Director for Montague and Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator

Other:

Michael Nelson opened the meeting at 5:02 PM

Melanie Ames-Zamojski joined via Zoom at 5:08 PM

Roll Call Votes taken once Ames-Zamojski joined via Zoom

Minutes:

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the August 27, 2025, minutes.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the August 27, 2025 Minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Director’s Report:

- Ryan Paxton (“Paxton”), Health Director, presented the August 2025 Director’s Report.
 - 15 Unity St # 3 has been resolved and 15 Unity St #2 is still on going. The property owner advised Paxton that they will be back in Court in October regarding Unit 2.
 - 453 Millers Falls Rd is still on going. Work continues to be done but there is always other issues popping up which means there is always new corrections that need to be made. The owner of the property advised Paxton that the occupant will be moving out shortly and then the residence will become owner occupied.
 - Paxton worked with Garrett Simonsen on re-writing the Principles of Operation for MAPCHO. Changes made included cleaning up language and changing to a steering committee rather than a full coalition and meetings are now monthly.
 - Rural Development Inc (“RDI”) is the receiver for 10 Unity St and they believe they will be receiving some funding soon for that. It also seems as though RDI is looking to become the receiver for 17 Hillside Ave as well.
 - Paxton would like to see 79 Fifth St in receivership, but no receiver has been identified yet.
 - Nelson and Paxton discussed 73 Fifth Street and work being done. Paxton did issue an Order to Correct (“OTC”) for the storage of materials.
 - Paxton advises the BOH is now set up for online payments for permitting through UniPay.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Director’s Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye and Nelson – aye

Nurse Report:

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the August 2025 Nurse’s Report.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Nurse’s Report. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye, and Nelson – aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the August 2025 Animal/Barn Inspector Report.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Animal/Barn Inspector's Report. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye, and Nelson – aye

Discussion: Opioid Settlement Funds Update – Votes may be taken:

- Director to provide updates regarding opioid settlement fund to Board
 - The balance of funds available is \$40,714.69.
 - The Sackler & Purdue Pharma Settlement was reached providing an additional \$104,900,000 to the state that will then be distributed out to the different towns.
 - Paxton summarized the data collection to date with the board.
 - Paxton also discussed with the board the key takeaways from the data collection.
 - Paxton believes the next steps are determining if we are satisfied with the data collected, do we think we have enough to start spending the funds or still wait?
 - Proposals have been received from Brickhouse, Piti Theatre, Mom's Do Care, Heartwings Center and CHD Recovery Project and Paxton provided the board with a summary of each proposal for them to take with them and review.
 - Paxton will reach out to the Town Administrator and the opioid folks as well to see if there is an RFP process that should be followed.

Discussion: Fees for Food Vendors at Domestic Violence Vigil – Votes may be taken:

- Board to discuss possibility of waiving food permit fees for vendors operating at domestic violence awareness vigil.
 - The board agrees to waive fees for temporary food permits for this one event.

*Melanie Ames-Zamojski **Motioned** to waive the fee for food vendors at the Domestic Violence Vigil. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye and Nelson - aye

Discussion: End of Year Planning – Votes may be taken:

- Board to plan revision of well regulations
 - Paxton advises the board that the model regulations for the state are a good place to start and suggests revisiting this discussion next month once the board has a chance to review. There was a brief discussion about a PFAS requirement being added to the state regulations.
- Board to discuss rescheduling October meeting due to Special Town Meeting
 - The board moves the October meeting to October 29, 2025 at 5:00 pm.
- Board to plan revision of Fee Schedule
 - Paxton discussed with the board the trash haulers fee and possibly changing that back to a flat rate as it is difficult to really know how many vehicles a company has.

Discussion: Director of Public Health Contract – Votes may be taken:

- Board to consider entering contract with Ryan for employment as Director of Public Health
 - Walter Ramsey joined and discussed his support of Paxton's contract with the board.

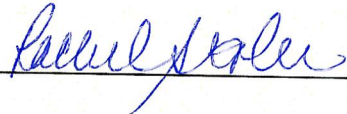
*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Director of Public Health's contract. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski. **Motion passes.***

Stoler – aye, Ames-Zamojski – aye and Nelson - aye

Meeting adjourned: 5:36 PM

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Seconded by Melanie Ames-Zamojski.
Motion passes.*

Stoler – aye, Nelson – aye, and Ames-Zamojski – aye

Approved by: 

Date: 10/29/25

Documents:

August 27, 2025 Minutes;
August 2025 Director's Report;
August 2025 Public Health Nurse Report;
August 2025 Animal Inspector/Barn Inspector Report;
Model BOH Regulation for Private Wells;
Agreement between Town of Montague and Ryan Paxton.