

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Nelson, Rachel Stoler and Melanie Ames-Zamojski

Staff: Ryan Paxton, Health Director for Montague and Geneva Bickford, Board of Health Clerk

Other: Kali Rieman (in person), Tim Rieman (in person), Ariel (Zoom)

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 4:59 PM

Ariel advised the board at 5:11 pm that the sound via Zoom was not working properly and she could not hear anything. Paxton did attempt to fix the microphone issue but was unsuccessful. The meeting continued via in person and Zoom due to not being sure whether the issue was with the Town or with the Zoom participant. No other participants were present on Zoom or attempted to join the meeting via Zoom.

Minutes:

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the October 29, 2025, minutes.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the October 29, 2025 Minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Director’s Report:

- Ryan Paxton (“Paxton”), Health Director, presented the October 2025 Director’s Report.
 - 62 East Chestnut Hill Rd the condemnation has been lifted.
 - 17 Hillside Rd has been secured and they are working on a rehab plan.
 - 34 Montague Ave has a Board of Health Hearing scheduled for November 26 to discuss possible condemnation of the property.

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

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

Nurse Report:

- Ryan Paxton, Health Director, presented the October 2025 Nurse’s Report.
 - The board and Paxton discussed the baby formula recall briefly and Paxton and Brittany Tuttle confirmed there was no formula found at any of the retailers in Montague that is a part of the recall.

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

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

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

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

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the Animal/Barn Inspector’s Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Variance Proposal: 199 Old Sunderland Rd Water Supply Certificate – Votes may be taken:

- Board to consider application for variance regarding water quality standards for an accessory dwelling unit constructed at 199 Old Sunderland Rd.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the variance requested to allow 193 mg/l of Sodium in the water quality analysis report for the well serving the accessory dwelling unit. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Opioid Settlement Funds Update – Votes may be taken:

- There was nothing in the way of an update and the board will revisit this discussion at the December meeting and asks that it be added to the agenda.

Discussion: 2026 Board of Health Meeting Schedule – Votes may be taken:

- Board to decide on preliminary meeting schedule for 2026.
 - The board discussed dates and ultimately decided to keep the meetings scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm.

Discussion: 2026 Fee Schedule – Votes may be taken:

- Board to set 2026 Board of Health Fee Schedule.
 - Paxton presented the board with a proposed updated fee schedule for 2026 adjusting costs for various permits. The board agreed with the proposed fees and voted to accept the new fee schedule for 2026.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the updated fee schedule for 2026. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Discussion: FY27 Budget – Votes may be taken:

- Board to review proposed FY27 budget materials.
 - At the request of town administration Paxton has drafted and presented the board with two budgets a level service budget and a level service budget minus 2%. The board votes to accept the proposed FY27 budget with the 2% cuts.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the proposed FY27 budget with the level service budget with a 2% decrease. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

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

Discussion: Continuity of Operations – Votes may be taken:

- Discuss and plan for continued delivery of services in absence of Director
 - Discuss specific ongoing code enforcement work and projects
 - Paxton has been working to get everything wrapped up as best as he can before leaving. The board discussed who will attend the various meetings Paxton was attending. Paxton has spoken with the VHRC and they will continue with the bi-annual food inspections as well as handling Title 5 Inspections. Bickford will forward all required work to Megan Tudryn who will be the point of contact for the VHRC.
- Discuss hiring process for Director position.
 - Ames-Zamojski confirmed that initial interviews will take place on December 4, 2025 with various candidates, the interview will include Melanie Ames-Zamojski, Board of Health Chair, Walter Ramsey, Town Administrator and Geneva Bickford, Health Clerk.

Meeting adjourned: 5:52 PM

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to adjourn the Board of Health Meeting. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

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

Approved by: Rachel Stoler

Date: 12/11/25

Documents:

October 29, 2025 Minutes;
October 2025 Director's Report;
October 2025 Public Health Nurse Report;
October 2025 Animal Inspector/Barn Inspector Report;
199 Old Sunderland Rd Variance Request;
Proposed 2026 Fee Schedule
Proposed FY27 Budgets (level service & w/ 2% cuts);