

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

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

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

Other: Joe Burek, Shane J. Burek, Maryellen Hatch, Sheryl Leh, David Leh, Carol Leh, George Goodridge, Lynn Reynolds, John Reynolds, Kathie Bridges (all guests attended in person)

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:00 PM

Minutes:

- The Board of Health (“BOH”) Members reviewed and approved the February 26, 2025, minutes.

Rachel Stoler Motioned to accept the February 26th Minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. Motion passes.

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

Director’s Report:

- Ryan Paxton (“Paxton”), Health Director, presented the February 2025 Director’s Report.
 - 23-29 Avenue A has been dismissed.
 - The MHOA seminar was regarding changes made to the ADU laws.

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

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

Nurse Report:

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

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 February 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

Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest:

- Director to provide disclosure statement to Board regarding the possible appearance of a conflict of interest regarding Title 5 enforcement at 4 Burek Dr.
 - Ryan Paxton filed a disclosure of appearance of conflict of interest to be in compliance and to discuss the possibility with the Board regarding Title 5 enforcement at 4 Burek Dr. Kathy Burek is the Animal/Barn Inspector for the Town of Montague and works with the Health Director and for the BOH. The Board agreed there is possibly a conflict and accepted the Health Director’s Disclosure.
 - The Board and Paxton discussed other options for them to continue working on this matter including using the shared inspector services with the Valley Health Collaborative or possibly asking a former health inspector for assistance with this matter.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to authorize to allocate funds from the 2025 Budget to seek outside assistance with matters related to Title 5 enforcement at Burek Drive to avoid possible conflict of interest. Seconded by Rachel Stoler. **Motion passes.**

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

Discussion: Unauthorized Temporary Housing at Millers Falls Rod & Gun:

- Board to discuss enforcement actions regarding unauthorized temporary housing at Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club.
 - Paxton has not had any direct contact with the residents living in the temporary housing. The residents have been placed on waiting lists for permanent housing. Ryan Paxton acknowledges the lack of services available to people in need and the board agrees to revisit the matter again in June.

Discussion: Opioid Settlement Funds:

- Board to continue discussion regarding planning and process for spending opioid settlement funds.
 - The Board discussed the proposals they have received and discussed forming a focus group that would include Melanie Ames-Zamojski, Michael Nelson and 3 community members. Rachel Stoler may have a conflict as she works for FRCOG. Rachel Stoler will reach out to the State before making a decision about sitting on the focus group.
 - The BOH would like to gauge interest from the community regarding the focus group. The Board would also like to only provide funding for a 1 year commitment when awarding funds. The Board would also like interested parties to put together clarifying documents and those awarded money will have 12 months to spend the funds. The BOH would also like feedback and have financial reports provided by those awarded money showing how the money was spent and the outcome those funds had on the community.

Unanticipated Discussions:

- There was a complaint of mold at 175 Avenue A. Ryan Paxton will need a resident of 175 Avenue A to call in a complaint so he can enter the building.
- The Board discussed the ongoing increase in Measle's cases in general and would like to get the word out to the community through a public service announcement regarding vaccines and who may or may not need another round of vaccines. Ryan Paxton will reach out to the Greenfield Recorder and the Montague Reporter to do a public service announcement.

Meeting adjourned: 5:52 PM

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

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

Approved by: Rachel Stoler

Date: 4/23/25

Documents:

February Minutes;

Director's Report;

Nurse's Report;

Animal and Barn Inspector Report;

Ryan Paxton Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest as Required by G.L. c. 268A, § 23(b)(3)