

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Thursday, January 20, 2011 –5:30 pm – Downstairs Meeting Room - Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chris Boutwell, Jay DiPucchio, Michael Nelson - Chair, Gina McNeely, Director Board of Health

Directors Report December 2010:

- **18 Central Street in Turners Falls, MA** has finally reach compliance after Gina visited the property today. Gina has a housing court date on January 27, 2011 with the property owner. A potential buyer for **35 Federal Street in Millers Falls, MA** (Old Felton Paving Office) there is a septic system there. Gina had a conversation with a gentleman that owns property on **105 L Street in Turners Falls, MA** – bed bug problem. Brattleboro has an aggressive program to recover furniture right from the property where it is invested. Paul Heithaus contact for the receivership –Anne and Gina sent letters to occupants of **38 East Main Street**. The next step is someone from the Atty General Office will write up a code violation letter to be sent to the landlord; if there is no response they will move on receivership. Gina would like some guidance on contacting the Housing Authority to see if they want to be a receiver. The BOH members said yes. Gina will call Joannie and Ronnie at the Housing Authority. Stanley Kupura had a conversation regarding dog feces on his property by Diane Souza, the owner who abuts Stanley.
- **Barn inspections** are almost done. Everything looks good except one place – no concern but a place where the horses are never turned out. The location is on West Street in Montague Center, MA.
- **20 G Street** – This is one of the most illegal apartments Gina has seen. It is listed in the Assessors office as a building with 5 apartments; it is actually housing 6 apartments. **3 Wolcott Street in Lake Pleasant, MA** (520 square feet) the son in the past has put “trash” and other stuff on the porch. There was also an odor of oil and spill that Rice oil will be cleaning up. The house is un-inhabitable and Gina has condemned the house from what she could see from the front door. The mother is 92 years old and lives there with the son – she does not even have a bed to sleep in. Elder Services have been called along with the Police Department for a wellness check officer Dempsey met Gina at the house. Woman has gone to stay with grand nice in Conway.

Jay DiPucchio motioned to accept the Directors report for the month of December 2010. This was seconded by Michael Nelson. All accepted

Meeting Minutes:

- No Meeting Minutes done at this point to vote on.

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Pooper Scooper Law:

- Need to have signed copy of the Pooper Scooper legislation.

Other Business:

- **Randall Woods Drive:** A woman that is complaining about chickens and noise level that they make. The chickens make noise April-September. There are 12 chickens on the neighbor's property. If doing a commercial operation then a zoning regulation. If they are family pets the BOH can not do anything about it. The woman is not happy with Gina the house is up for sale, so that might be the motivating factor behind her wanting to press the issue at this time. The chicken coop is 8 feet from the property line not 10 so David will take care of that from the Building Department.
- **Smoking Ban:** In Greenfield – the town councilor passed it to ban all smoking on any town property at any gathering (2 people = gathering). This includes municipal building, parks, ball games and sidewalks – An example is: someone is smoking outside of Taylors Tavern in Greenfield they would be in violation. What is Montague thinking about this issue? This went through a town meeting not the selectboard. Fines are \$150 for second offense. How will this be enforced?

FRCOG: Phoebe Walker, FRCOG –Discussion Regarding Regionalization

- Chis Boutwell got the mailing out on behalf of Phoebe. The brief overview: A group of 10 folks working for a year through Public Health Future Task Force. They looked at wide variety of public health indicators in Franklin County. What are we all doing and spending? What the health status indicators – national standards. We want to be able to write grants and know how we know we are doing (measurable). As a result, we designed a Franklin County model that included 2 tiers with a possible service delivery model. **Outcomes:** A comprehensive Health District/Regionalization that could be available to everyone. If communities felt like they needed help with the technical court appearances parts of BOH they could take part in that. Housing Court and Hoarding takes the majority of BOH time. State released the planning grant (process of answering the questions) and how could it make the job we are doing better and regionalized. \$100,000-\$150,000 a year for 4-5 years. An implementation grant is the next step and the decision if we want to “buy” into that at a later point. Chris attended the finance committee; questions arose concerning the Building and BOH departments. This included: are we considering aligning ourselves with the council of governments? How much money are we going to save in our budgets by doing this? What is it going to cost the town in the long run – year 3, year 5? (DPH requirements of the plan are that there is not a drop in the municipal funding. They will give the towns the money on the condition that it they do not spend less than the year before). The Montague BOH department has been cut every year for the last 11 years amounting approximately to \$40,000. The town of Montague is looking for a 10% cut from every department in FY 2012. The meeting times for this Planning grant will be from March-August 2011.

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Jay DiPucchio motioned (signing on to apply for the Planning grant) to endorse the Board and the town of Montague efforts to be part of the collaboration at this point. The motion was seconded by Chris Boutwell to continue to investigate it. Michael passed the vote unanimously – Chris is for discovery...Executive Branch has to sign off on this – Frank A or selectboard

Topics not anticipated covered in the 48 hour posting requirements:

- Not Applicable

Michael Nelson motioned to adjourn at 6:45PM and Chris Boutwell seconded the motion.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Meeting Agenda Subject to Change

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