

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – 5:30 pm

Montague Town Hall
First Floor Meeting Room
Turners Falls, MA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Al Cummings, Chair, Christopher Boutwell and Michael Nelson

Staff: Anne Stuart, Health Clerk & Kathern Pierce, Health Inspector

Minutes from the special meeting on January 29, 2018:

*Christopher Boutwell **motioned** to accept the January 29, 2018 special meeting that was held at the Montague Center Fire Station minutes as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Director's Report for December 2017:

- The December Director's report focused solely on a call that came in from Greg's Wastewater Removal regarding a septic system located at 42-44 Canal Road in Turners Falls, MA. This is currently the home of the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority. The property may be sold soon so a Title 5 inspection was completed. The property needs a new septic tank and an area in the middle of the parking lot appears to be unsafe and there is a square at that location outlined with stones.

Philip from Greg's Wastewater gathered from talking with Brian McHugh, FCRHA that it might be a dry well that collected water from floor drains when the building was used as a factory. Philip after digging for a leach pit there felt he could have fallen into the "hole". He described the area as unsafe, and worried about having vehicular traffic running over it.

Gina wrote an order asking the FCRHA to either excavate the hole or fill it in with a sand and dirt mixture or put steel "road plates" over it to prevent an accident. The prospective buyer, Curt Sherrer later informed Gina that the area was where the old smoke stack stood and he emailed pictures of the old mill and the stack appears to be located right where the "hole" is currently. Since no one knows what is under the soil it has to be made safe regardless.

Curt Sherrer was in recently, he is anxiously waiting for the conditionally passed Tile5 to go to a full passed Title5. Curt and the FCRHA will have to figure out who will pay for the new tank and repairs; which is usually the responsibility of the owner.

*Christopher Boutwell **motioned** to accept the December 2017 Director's Report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes***

Director's Report for January 2018:

- The January Director's report highlighted 3 Norman Circle which is currently part of the receivership program through the Attorney General's office. The property is for sale but the first proposed sale fell through. Kara Cunha is keeping the receivership option open in case a buyer can not be found for this property.
- Adrie from Red Fire Farm North called to have Gina go out and do a pre-opening inspection for the store. They are making progress and this should be a nice addition to the area.

*Michael Nelson **motioned** to accept the January 2018 Director's Report. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes***

Health Inspector's Report for December 2017:

- The property located at 83 Fourth Street and owned by Bich Thuy Reed was inspected after receiving several calls from the tenants, Sean & Brandy Flecha reporting a lack of heat in their unit. Kathern and Gina went out to inspect and upon her arrival found that the tenants were using several electrical wall heating units and a gas cooking stove to maintain some level of heat in their apartment. David Jensen, Montague Building Inspector was called, and joined Kathern and Gina at the apartment. Given the severity of the situation the apartment was condemned by the BOH and the occupants were put up at a local hotel at the landlord's expense.
- Al Cummings alerted the BOH to the dumping of a couch, other furniture and debris at 12 K Street on the tree belt. An order to correct was sent to the landlord, Nicole Clark who lives in California with a deadline to have those items removed from the tree belt.
- 4 K Street Apartment B has an occupant, Davina Hootstein that called saying that the gas to her apartment had been shut off. After further investigation and speaking with Berkshire Gas, Bich Thuy Reed, along with Service Net it was determined that the tenant is unfit to operate the gas in the apartment.
The tenant has applied for and has been approved for Section 8. Mrs. Reed does not accept Section 8, therefore Ms. Hootstein will have to find Section 8 approved apartment, unless she stays with Service Net and Service Net takes some responsibility for supervising Ms. Hootstein. Service Net is working with both Mrs. Reed (Landlord) and Ms. Hootstein (Tenant) to find some common ground and a solution that will work for both of them going forward.
- Pattie, Nursing Supervisor from Farren Care Center called to alert us to a GI outbreak affecting both patients and employees and that it was isolated to one floor. Pattie will report this through the state system and update the Montague BOH next week.

*Michael Nelson **motioned** to accept the December 2017 Health Inspector's Report. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes***

Health Inspector's Report for January 2018:

- The Montague Board of Health was informed regarding a chicken lunch that was served at Franklin County Technical High School that allegedly had not been cooked properly. The student apparently thought the chicken looked "bad" took a picture, posted it and then tagged 22 News and called The Greenfield Recorder. The student then went on to eat the chicken without any adverse results. After speaking to Elizabeth Bouchard, at FCTS Kathern was informed there had been 142 whole chickens cooked that day and unannounced inspection was done the kitchen, food handling procedure and logs were in complete compliance.
- 127 Fourth Street has had garbage consistently on the corner and in the parking area; as of today there is a dumpster in place that we hope helps to accommodate the volume.
- 20-201/2 G Street - the occupant came in and had a records request to have copies of the entire file.
- Continuing issues at 83 Fourth Street and the landlord Bich Thuy Reed. Mrs. Reed is renting through Service Net and wanted the orders to correct to go to Service Net. Mr. Reed thought when contracting with them, that the agency would oversee the tenants placed at her properties and follow through on any necessary orders. It was suggested to Mrs. Reed that her property manager needs to be more visible and on site more often to help with these ongoing issues.
- On Third Street there were some inquiries regarding the requirements for dumpsters here in Montague. The regulation is when you have 3 or more units you are required to have a dumpster.

Michael Nelson **motioned** to accept the January 2018 Health Inspector's Report. Seconded by Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes**

Topics Not Anticipated;

- Al Cummings informed the BOH that an illegal basement bedroom located at 34 Millers Falls Road has been condemned. The property owner had been cited for trash in the driveway previously and made it very clear she does not want the Board of Health on her property.

Michael Nelson **motioned** to adjourn at 5:56PM. Seconded by, Christopher Boutwell. **Motion passes.**

Meeting adjourned: 5:56 PM

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

List of documents used at this meeting:

January 29, 2018 BOH Minutes
December 2017 Health Director's Report
January 2018 Health Director's Report
December 2017 Health Inspector's Report
January 2018 Health Inspector's Report