

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 5:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Present:, Melanie Ames Zamojski, Rachel Stoler & Michael Nelson

Other: Gina McNeely- Acting Health Director for Montague, Anne Stuart – Health Clerk

Melanie Ames Zamojski opened the meeting at 5:02 PM

January 18, 2023 Minutes

- The Board of Health members reviewed the minutes.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the January 18, 2023 minutes with addition of Alan Weiss under the Director's report. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Zamojski – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Stoler - Aye

Directors Report:

- Gina McNeely gave an overview of the work done by her.
 - Housing Inspections
 - 87 Fourth Street – There was a sewer back up which has now been taken care of.
 - Gina let the BOH members know she attended a housing seminar as the code will be changing in April 2023.
 - Jennifer Hoffman submitted her OTC on the ongoing issues at 15 Park Street. There was in the order documentation to be given to the Montague Board of Health of the mold and rodent remediation by February 10, 2023.
 - 37 East Main Street is in the process of getting a buzzer system installed which is required in dwellings with 3 or more units.
 - Septic
 - 515 Turners Falls Road plan review is in process.
 - 409 Old Greenfield Road needs a LUA - local upgrade approval due to the challenging site. The applicant filed and got approval of the RDA through the Conservation Commission.
 - Burial Permits
 - Anne and Gina worked with the state to achieve burial agent status to work in the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. We are now able to process incoming burial permits.

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the Director's report as presented. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Zamojski – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

*Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve a LUA - local upgrade approval for 409 Old Greenfield Road for a reduction of separation from 4 feet to 3 feet and a reduction of natural occurring pervious surface soil of 4 feet to 3 ½ feet with ½ foot pervious fill). Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.***

Zamojski – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Nurse Report:

- The School of Nursing UMASS students will be starting with Cheryl this week. There will be a end of year presentation to the BOH members.
- The BOH members discussed possible other projects for Cheryl including:
 - blood pressure clinics at the Senior Center
 - A1C or bone density screenings – Gina let them know that we are not equipped with the equipment in which to do these screenings.
- Enrollment in the fall flu vaccine program pending the Medical Director.
- Disease surveillance through the state system - MAVEN continues.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the Nurse Report as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.**

Zamojski- Aye, Stoler – Aye, Nelson – Abstained

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- There were 3 quarantines in January.
- There were 3 other issues which need the Animal Inspectors attention and response during the month.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to approve the Animal and Barn Inspector Reports as presented. Seconded by Melanie Ames Zamojski. **Motion passes.**

Zamojski- Aye, Stoler – Aye, Nelson – Abstained

Medical Director Update:

- Jennifer Hoffman spoke to Dr. Timothy Lepore regarding overseeing the Town of Montague.
- There would be a onetime fee of \$1,000 payable to Dr. Timothy Lepore and since he would be a contractor this would not have to go to Town Meeting for an additional vote.

Michael Nelson **Motioned** to approve Dr. Timothy Lepore as Montague's Medical Director and a onetime fee of \$1,000 from the BOH budget. Seconded by Rachel Stoler **Motion passes.**

Zamojski – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Stoler- Aye

Discussion: Opioid Settlements and Survey:

- As a committee and department, we all filled out the opioid survey and submitted it.
- There were discussions surrounding what we could use the money for. Some suggestions included:
 - recovery coaches
 - training for residents
 - support of young mothers
- There will be future discussions on what and how the monies can be spent on the town level.

Discussion Public Health Director Position:

- Both the BOH and Selectboard have approved Candaicy David from Turks and Caicos for the position of Health Director for the Town of Montague.
- Candaicy David is currently not an American citizen so she will need to obtain an H-1B visa, which has the designation as a nonimmigrant classification for those who want to work in a specialty occupation.
- The Selectboard has approved money to be spent on immigration lawyers and the visa process in which to get the applicant into the H-1B lottery in March 2023 (with a 30% chance for the town or 1 in 65,000 that Candaicy would attain a visa) after which she can then move forward in the process to come to the USA and accept the position.

Meeting adjourned: 6:00 PM

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

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Documents:

Minutes

Directors Report (Gina & Jennifer)

Nurse Report

Animal/Barn Inspector Report