

MONTAGUE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Town Hall – Second Floor Meeting Room and ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

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

Other: Gina McNeely- Interim Acting Health Director for Montague & Steven Ellis – Town Administrator

Melanie Ames-Zamojski opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

Recorder turned on at 6:11 PM

Minutes:

- March 15, 2023 and March 30 Minutes
 - The BOH members reviewed the March minutes and accepted with the correction of the spelling of Candaicy David's name.

Rachel Stoler **Motioned** to accept the minutes. Seconded by Michael Nelson. **Motion passes.**

Zamojski – aye, Stoler – aye and Nelson – aye

Director's Report:

- Gina reviewed with the BOH members her report including upcoming scheduled perc tests along with an influx of property complaints totaling 15 in the last 2 weeks.

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

Zamojski – Aye Nelson – Aye, Stoler - Aye

Nurse Report:

- The BOH reviewed the Nurse report and noted that Public Health Nurse, Cheryl Volpe's RN, BSN last day will be April 24, 2023. It was discussed that the collaborative grant can provide MAVEN surveillance coverage for now. The BOH members suggested that they would leave the hiring of a new Public Health Nurse to the new Health Director once they are settled.

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

Zamojski – Aye Nelson – Aye, Stoler – Aye

Animal/Barn Inspector Report:

- The BOH members reviewed the Animal and Barn Inspector's Report. There have been four quarantines this past month. This time of year brings more quarantines given the change in seasons.

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

Zamojski – Aye Nelson – Aye, Stoler – Aye

Discussion regarding Opioid Settlement Funds:

- Rachel gave an overview and wanted to check to see if the Town of Montague had signed on for the next set of 5 settlements and the Selectboard has signed and approved this

according to Steve. Rachel wanted to know who makes the ultimate decision regarding how the town opioid funds are spent. Steve stated that the BOH members will make the decision on how the opioid settlement funds are spent. The Selectboard will approve the contracts. Melanie suggested a conversation should happen between Rachel and Gina. Gina stated there might be times where it would benefit towns to collaborate on purchases such as Narcan. Rachel and Gina agreed that they will watch the video of the March 27, 2023, and then meet with the other towns and discuss. Steve noted that the money is currently in stabilization funds and access to this money will not be until FY24. The BOH will need to prepare an appropriation request for the October Town Meeting.

Interview for the Director of Public Health – Ryan Paxton

- Ryan Paxton joined the meeting and Michael Nelson introduced Ryan to the group and let them know that he was unanimously voted through from the Hiring Committee to the Board of Health due to not securing an H1 B Visa for Candaicy David.
- Michael gave an overview of his qualifications and credentials. Each BOH member asked Ryan a few questions and got his input on why he would like to come to Montague.
- Ryan has an interest in focusing on population level health. His interests include data driven approaches with a health equity focus which he became familiar with while working with the Harvard Global Health Team when he was in Holyoke, MA.
- He had experience as a contract tracer with COVID-19 and dealing with the Holyoke Soldier’s Home cluster. He had and used MAVEN while doing the contract tracing.
- Ryan has a vision of working with housing and food inspections with the focus being compliance and education rather than code enforcement and meeting folks where they are.
- Gina is willing to help mentor and assist Ryan where needed.

Meeting adjourned: 5:47 PM

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

Zamojski – Aye Nelson – Aye, Stoler – Aye

Approved by: _____

Date: _____