

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
August 20, 2008

The meeting convened at 1:05PM. Present were Chairman Louis Fazen, III, Members Nancy A. Sacco and Richard H. Seder, Public Health Director Paul C. Pisinski, Public Health Nurse Leslie Chamberlin, Sanitary Inspector Dennis Costello and Administrative Assistant Barbara M. Luther.

The minutes of the minutes July 16, 2008 were approved with one change.

Members were briefed on the agenda and any scheduled appointments.

In his briefing of the board members regarding the agenda for this meeting, Mr. Pisinski reminded the members that annually they should take a formal vote to authorize Mr. Costello, the board's contracted Sanitary Inspector to sign licenses and permits. Dr. Fazen then moved to authorize Dennis Costello, Sanitary Inspector, to sign all licenses and permits normally signed by the Public Health Director in the disciplines for which Mr. Costello is certified. Mrs. Sacco seconded the motion and Dr. Seder made the vote unanimous.

PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Officers David Hagen and Kevin Landry where scheduled to attend the meeting, but other commitments made it impossible.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Selectmen's request to have Barbara's review changed and re-submitted. Mrs. Luther told the members that Mr. Pisinski had advised her that the Board of Selectmen approved her merit increase. However, they had requested that some verbiages stating that in his absence Mrs. Luther has been acting as a "de-facto" board of health agent be removed and the evaluation changed to reflect her job description. Mrs. Luther told the board members that if her evaluation was changed to eliminate that phrase, she would not sign the new evaluation. She said that she believes that she has been working in a manner that truly reflects that statement and was frankly surprised that anyone would make such a request. She asked the board members for their support in keeping the phrase in her evaluation. After much discussion and two members agreeing that the wording should remain, all members agreed to draft a letter to be sent to the Board of Selectmen. The letter will state that the board has reviewed Mr. Pisinski's evaluation of Mrs. Luther and find it to be accurate.

New job description for Administrative Agent: Dr. Fazen suggested that the new job description be ready for discussion the first Wednesday in October. Mr. Pisinski explained that he will be away from October 1, through most of the month. Therefore, a meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, and the job description will be part of the agenda.

REPORT ON CORE DIRECTIVES

TOBACCO - Mrs. Luther reported that the Worcester Regional Tobacco Control Consortium was offering a "stop-smoking" patch free of charge until August 31, 2008. This offer has been posted on the Town's cable site for the last several weeks.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – Mrs. Chamberlin reported on the possibility of using the Flu Clinic as a drill for the town's EDS site. She advised the board that she has been told to present the names of MRC volunteers to the Board of Selectmen regarding their

participation in the Flu Clinic, especially in giving shots. Mrs. Chamberlin is not sure yet what the process will be, but will find out and report at the next meeting. The members were advised that as special municipal employees both Dr. Fazen and Dr. Seder who are duly licensed physicians are covered by the Town's liability when writing doctor's orders. The board members requested and unanimously voted that Town Counsel be requested to render an opinion regarding using MRC nurses, LPNs and physicians to give shots during a non-emergency situation. Mrs. Sacco asked if Mrs. Chamberlin was suggesting that the board not use Marlboro Hospital, as has been past practice. Mrs. Chamberlin advised that she hopes to begin to train for an EDS site during the clinic, CERT member would get practice in directing the flow and greeting people, MRC volunteers would give the vaccines. Mrs. Sacco suggested that the clinic could be advertised at Heritage Day. Brochures could be handed out advertising that the clinic will be open to all town residents. The brochure will explain who can receive a free vaccination and who will have to pay a small fee. Members voted to offer vaccines free to residents 65 and over, high risk residents and town/school employees.

Mrs. Chamberlin also advised that the Board of Health will be receiving 2 more radios through Region 4A. Dr. Fazen reported that he attended a Certification Meeting and learned about radios. He would like to have Andy Gleckel and Tony Rae come to a meeting to train the board members on how to use radios; half of the meeting would be dedicated to the training.

It was noted that during the "Summer Nights" festival MRC and CERT volunteers were available to assist where needed.

WELLNESS/OBESITY - A discussion on how to respond to HHAN Alerts regarding restaurants began with Dr. Fazen asking what the staff presently does when a HHAN Alert is received. Mr. Costello explained that most of the HHAN Alerts are not emergencies, and Board of Health offices get the alerts after the distributors and much of the public has already been notified, i.e. the Lobster Tamale has been a problem for the last nine years. Mr. Costello suggested that the staff monitor reports for local towns and watch for clusters before officially notifying the town's people. Mr. Costello has met with other Board of Health Agents, discussing how to respond to HHAN. They and he believe that a 3 tiered response system could work. A level 1 alert; staff would determine if any response is needed. A level 2 alert would require a "focused response" by the staff, such as notifying and/or inspecting establishments that may be effected by the alert. A level 3 urgent alert would require a serious response which would involve the Board of Health members and a "general response" such as closing down restaurants, banning items, reporting on radio and TV, etc. Mr. Costello explained that a water contamination must be responded to quickly as a level 3 response without waiting for a meeting of the Board. Dr. Fazen suggested that during a drinking water emergency staff would be required to contact a technical person at the Department of Public Health or Water Department to determine the time of the contamination. This would help determine the response. In a food emergency staff members are trained to know what, when and how to respond. In a verified level 2 response the staff is trained to respond, but in a verified level 3 response board members would be immediately informed. It was suggested that colors be used to signify the level of response needed: Yellow – HHAN received no action needed, Orange – HHAN verified, focused response to be determined by the proper person, and Red - Verified community wide response needed, must be determined by Public Health Director and at least one board

member. Mrs. Sacco stated that it seems that the HHAN system is being used too much for unnecessary things. Dr. Seder noted that several “boil orders” have been enacted in area towns, and questions if the notifications would be made first to the DPW or to the Board of Health. He believes that Public Health should be included in these situations so that the health component can be addressed. Dr. Fazen returned to the discussion of the HHAN alert about the lobster tamale. Noting that this was well televised, Dr. Fazen thought that a tamale warning could easily be included on restaurant menus just as eggs, raw fish, etc are included.

Also during the discussion on Wellness, Mr. Pisinski advised the board members that Constance Bean the author of a book on Lyme disease will be speaking at Barns and Noble bookstore in Framingham, Thursday evening at 7:30 PM.

Mrs. Sacco reported that she is still working with Recreation’s Doreen Ferguson on Southborough’s participation on the National Walk to School day.

Working with Other Departments

Due to the recent unusual rain fall, Dr. Seder asked the other members for their agreement of his desire to contact the DPW to inquire about any preventive methods they might be using to treat the water after the unusually heavy rain falls have caused runoff. The other board members agreed that his inquiry was a good idea. Mr. Pisinski said that the Storm-water Committee has a drainage plan. Dr. Seder said that he would like for him and Mr. Costello to have a discussion with departments and committees involved.

Dr. Fazen reported that he had a long meeting with Officer Kevin Landry regarding the auto accident death of an Ashland teen and then two weeks later 3 girls being involved in an auto accident. Two of the girls were in the front of the vehicle and one in the back who was crushed. He said that this problem is not going to go away and will continue to grow with time. Dr. Fazen said that he would like to work with the schools to address this epidemic of deaths that is happening with our youth. He and Officer Landry are talking about possibly developing a program using scientific principles, videos, etc and present the course as a credited course in children’s education.

Dr. Fazen would also like to work on a presentation to the Police Department, much like he did with the Fire Department. His ideas includes some sort of incentive for keeping fit, such as being able to successfully do a certain number of sit ups, etc.

Dr. Fazen also reported to the other members that the report from the Public Health Advisory Committee, which was written by Mary Lou Woodford, has been completed. Each board member was given a copy of the report and asked to comment on it. Dr. Fazen advised that he was having copies sent to all the committee members for their comments as well. The then finished report will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Health Activity Expansion – Dr. Fazen advised that he would like to continue to look at several of the issues that were raised at the last meeting. Nuclear proliferation and refugees around the world are in the minds of much the public. He suggested possibilities such as the board considering a sister city in another country, which was suggested in the “outer circle” of the diagram on the expansion of activities diagram. He also stated that maybe that “circle” is beyond the scope of this department right now. He said that we are in the preliminary stages of expansion right now and he certainly wants to hear opinions from the whole board. We need to be educated and understand these issues. Dr. Seder suggested that the board make a public

statement of commitment without actually taking on the issue itself. Dr. Fazen agreed that the board needs to determine if they are even ready to address such an issue, as was explored at the last meeting. However, we can do something in house by voting on a statement, or at the next level presenting a statement to the Town Meeting or the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards for a vote in support of the statement of our position. This discussion will continue over the next several meetings.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIONS BETWEEN MEETINGS & PENDING ITEMS

Vouchers Paid in FY09

- BOH Budget: Corporate Express Office Supplies for new office = \$117.91
 Massachusetts Association of Health Boards annual dues = \$100.00
 Bottom Line Exchange – file cabinet Paul’s office = \$85.00
 Verizon Telephone Bill – 6/24-7/23/08 = \$46.99
 Dennis Costello (July 30 thru Aug. 14,
 MRC Grant: The Comfort Store – 6 Travel Chairs
 600 lb capacity Platform Truck = \$58.30
 LLS Emergency Equip. = \$165.00
 MMS – Medical Supplies = 681.79

Septic System

Permit Number	St Name	Applicant Name	Explanation	Metrowest Engineering
2008018	79 Marlboro Rd.	Joshar Prop. Management	Complete Replacement	CONNORSTONE, INC.
2008006	2 Reservoir Dr	Keith Ackley	Update	GREEN HILL ENGINEERING
2008019	59 Boston Rd.	Eilen Perham Trust	Complete Replacement	SULLIVAN, CONNORS & ASSOC.

BUDGET

MAHB Certification to cost \$40 this year for Nancy Sacco – discussion as to why and approval vote by the Board. After an explanation of the cost of attending this year’s MAHB Certification, the Board voted unanimously to pay for Mrs. Sacco’s attendance at the course. Dr. Seder advised the other members about a New England Water Works Association course that he felt would be beneficial to the board for him to attend. The fee is \$185 and he questioned if the budget could handle the fee. The other board members unanimously supported Dr. Seder’s attendance at the course.

Next meeting(s): September will be held on Tuesday, September 30th; then on November 5th and December 3rd.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Barbara M. Luther, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health