

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2024

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2024 JUN 25 A 10:57

Members Present: Kelly Lamas, Chair; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Antonio Tavares, Member

Also Present: Paulina Matusik

Meeting was called to order @ 4:31 PM by Ms. Lamas and the Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Monthly Business:

Ms. DeSantis signed the meeting minutes from May 16, 2024. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for May 16, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Matusik updated the Board noting there have been interviews for the Health Inspector position. The applicants were narrowed down to one candidate who was offered and accepted the position contingent on her references and once those come back, she can be offered a start date.

Ms. Matusik has been working with the Town's Public Relations Associate – the Town of Ludlow has a press release company that they work with and there is an individual that works with all the departments. May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the Health Department in collaboration with other departments did a press release highlighting the departments collaborative for improving Mental Health services that went out on Friday, May 10, 2024. From the press release Ms. Matusik had two interviews, one with the Republican and one with the Reminder, copies were handed out to the Board and noting they are on the town's website. Ms. Matusik is working with the public relations associate to do press releases monthly, some will be educational, the next one she is working on is to promote community involvement in rodent control initiatives and every month there will be a new topic.

On June 4, 2024, the Health Department will have the Massachusetts Department of Public Health student starting. She will be working throughout the summer; and will be in the office two days a week and remote for the other three days. Her focus will be working on increasing social media presence for the use of health education, community outreach and prevention programs that include Opioid and Substance misuse, she has a lot of background and interest in this. There will also be a couple of other projects in-between.

Ms. DeSantis asked how many hours a week she will be working. Ms. Matusik believes that the total number of hours she needs to complete would be around 160 hours but that it could be more. The hours can vary from week to week but need to complete that total of hours.

Ms. DeSantis inquired about what school she is going to. Ms. Matusik explained she goes to UMASS and is currently finishing up her bachelor's degree, she is from Amherst and her name is Sarah.

Actions/Correspondence:

The Board discussed a request for Temporary Housing on 484 Poole Street.

Ms. Matusik explained she received a phone call from Mike Flagg from Emergency Temporary Housing to put a mobile home on the property of 484 Poole Street because the house recently burned down. During the rebuilding process they are looking to put in temporary housing for up to nine months while the house is being rebuilt. Per the CMR code they will need permission from the Board of Health to put temporary housing on a property. Ms. Matusik suggested that after the nine months the Board would revisit this if more time were needed.

Mr. Tavares made a motion to approve the temporary housing for 484 Poole Street for up to nine months and if it's not completed the board will review at that time. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Other Discussion:

Ms. Matusik updated the Board on Shared Services and started by showing the Board a couple of projects Ms. McMurray has been working on that include a few brochures, a couple of kits including one for first aid.

The Shared Services Social Worker started on May 20, 2024, Ashley Jediny, her role as the regional community social worker will be to provide guidance, assessment and support to the diverse populations of Ludlow, Palmer, Warren and West Brookfield. This is a brand-new position for all four communities. With her education and professional experience, she will be able to develop working relationships and collaborations with other staff and community agencies to assist community individuals and offer strategies that best support the individual. Ms. Jediny has already begun making connections for just starting last week, she is off to a great start. Ms. Matusik will introduce Ms. Jediny at the next Board of Health meeting.

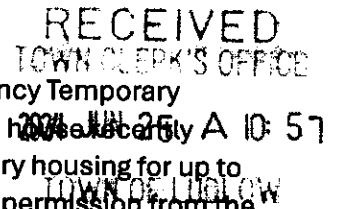
The Shared Services Title V Contractor position has been posted with one applicant so far, an interview has been scheduled for June 4, 2024. This position is for all four towns and would be the back-up for the Ludlow Health Department if the Health Director or the Health Inspector were on vacation.

The Fiscal Year 25 Grant Budget was submitted and approved by the Department of Public Health for the next three years. The amount that was received is the amount that will be received for the next three years. Ms. McMurray worked on the grant budget with Ms. Matusik answering questions and guidance.

Ms. McMurray is now Adult and Child CPR First Aid and AED Certified through the American Red Cross. She will begin to offer classes to all the towns. Ms. Lamas is hoping that Ludlow can host a regional CPR class with the other communities in attendance and the same for the other towns hosting with other communities in attendance.

Ms. Matusik will share upcoming events going forward noting Slide into Summer Safety with the Boys and Girls Club on Friday, June 14, 2024, from 1-3 PM in collaboration with other departments.

The legal notices were reviewed by the Board.



The next Board of Health meeting will be on Thursday, June 20, 2024 @ 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Tavares to adjourn the meeting on May 30, 2024, at 4:45 PM. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary

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