

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Members Present: Kelly Lamas, Chair; Antonio Tavares, Secretary

Also Present: Paulina Matusik; Health Director and the Select Board: Manuel Silva, Chair; William Rosenblum, Vice Chair; James Gennette, Member; Anthony Alves, Member

This was a joint meeting with the Board of Selectman to interview and appoint a Board of Health member.

Mr. Silva opened the Select Board meeting on October 20, 2025, for a special meeting to interview candidates and appoint a member to the Board of Health. He explained that pursuant to Mass General Law: Chapter 38; Section 20F, after notifying the Select Board Chair, any person may record the open session of this Select Board meeting, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair. The meeting is being recorded by Local Community Television. If anyone else is recording, please identify yourself now. No one was present in the audience.

Mr. Tavares made a motion to open the Board of Health meeting on October 20, 2025, at 6:02 PM, seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 2-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Ms. Lamas explained that this joint meeting between the Board of Health and the Select Board is to interview and possibly appoint a candidate to fill the current vacancy of the Board of Health that was previously filled by Ms. DeSantis. They initially had three candidates, noting that the 6:00 PM candidate withdrew but submitted a letter of support for one of the candidates that will be interviewed this evening. Ms. Lamas explained that each person for both Boards received a packet that contains a letter of interest, resume from each candidate and a list of interview questions for the Boards to ask as well as information that relates to some of the questions. She also explained to the Select Board that they decided on fifteen-minute interviews. And shared that appointment is by majority vote from all six members that are present.

6:15 PM

Ms. Lamas welcomed Mr. Fontaine to the Board of Health member vacancy interview.

Mr. Tavares thanked Mr. Fontaine for coming. Mr. Tavares asked Mr. Fontaine what motivated him to apply for a position on the Board of Health at this point in his career? Mr. Fontaine stated that he has been with the Board for about eighteen years as an inspector, on the Board for quite a few years and as chairman of the Board for about three to four years. It has always been a passion of his, he noticed the vacancy and felt that he has the time and the availability. He also stated that he planned on running for the appointment in March.

Mr. Tavares also asked Mr. Fontaine to describe his professionalism and background in Public Health or the related fields. He reiterated that he has eighteen years as an inspector for the town, he was a member of the Board, commissioner, chairman and worked in the office as an administrative assistant and holds certifications for Title V Soil Evaluator and a system inspector. He has been certified ServSafe Proctor Instructor, he has vast knowledge of the food code and housing code. And feels his experience speaks for itself.

Mr. Silva thanked Mr. Fontaine for coming. His question to Mr. Fontaine was how would he handle potential conflicts of interest when his personal views may differ from the recommended Board policies? Mr. Fontaine explained that he would listen and try to understand both sides. The Board is made up of three people with a majority vote, and not everyone is going to agree, which is why the majority vote is in place.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Mr. Fontaine for coming. His question to Mr. Fontaine was about Fiscal oversight of the Health Departments budget. What is his experience and comfort level with reviewing and approving budgets including providing fiduciary oversight? Mr. Fontaine explained that he was the administrative assistant in the office and was in charge of coming up with a budget, going through the budget and creating a budget because at the time there wasn't a Health Director. Once a Health Director was brought in, he worked with the first Health Director to put the budget in place, he has seen the cuts and where they needed to be. He has a strong fiscal background with taxes and accounting and knows numbers pretty well.

Mr. Gennette said it was good to see Mr. Fontaine. Mr. Gennette explained that Public Health is determined to promote and protect the health of all people and their communities. What does Mr. Fontaine see as the most pressing health challenges facing Ludlow today? Mr. Fontaine stated that there is a lot and explained that towards the end of his stint in the Health Department, there was the mice issue off of State Street and Winsor Street, some housing that needs to be addressed, he was strong in the inspectional aspect and noted that it took him two years to get the town back on par as a full time Health Inspector. For food safety, he has twenty-three years plus in the culinary field and felt that food safety is important. He doesn't feel that there is a number one priority but that there is a strong list of where he would like to see and focus on to ensure that Ludlow stays a safe community.

Mr. Gennette asked what are some of the ways the nursing program can be improved? Mr. Fontaine stated that Ludlow always had a very interesting nursing program and explained that at one time there were about eight to nine nurses traveling through the community. He is not sure where it stands now but knows that there is one Public Health Nurse and is not sure where the department sits as far as the nursing program. Mr. Fontaine feels that there has always been a great connection with the senior population and they have received great services. As far as the nursing program is concerned, he would need to see where they are right now.

Mr. Alves thanked Mr. Fontaine for coming. Mr. Alves explained that the Board of Health provides strategic leadership to the Health Department, it supports the Public Health Director and wanted to know how he would ensure and foster effective collaboration with Town Officials and the Health

Department staff. Mr. Fontaine noted his years of experience and has done it. He is very open to communication, very easy to get in touch with, he has a lot of knowledge to pass out and use and feels that it has a lot to do with listening and giving the proper answers.

Ms. Lamas thanked Mr. Fontaine for coming. She explained that the Board of Health is granted legal authority under Mass General Law: Chapter 111; Section 36, and wanted to know what his understanding of this role of the Board of Health to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents and how would he explain the difference in the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Health and the Health Department to a community member? Mr. Fontaine explained that the Board of Health creates laws, enforces them and comes up with what the Health Department needs to survive. He also explained that the Board of Health and the Health Department run side by side, but they are different, the Board is an elected official where every year they can have a new member, new sights, new visions. It's up to the Board to come up with the right policies and procedures for the Health Department to carry out throughout the day to make the town a better place.

Ms. Lamas explained that part of their role as the Board of Health is to align with statewide public health initiatives, she wanted to know how he would align the strategies that are happening at the state level and evolving, how would he communicate that to community members? Mr. Fontaine explained that it would depend on what aspect you're looking at and yes, the state rules would need to be followed. He understands the initiative and what the state wants and noted they would have to follow the state, but the town could also do theirs too. In respect to communication, what is the initiative, what kind of response the state is looking for, what is the Board going to do to create that and make it look right in the town and how the town can accept it properly. In the end some people might like it, and some may not, it's about coming up with a happy medium.

Mr. Tavares asked Mr. Fontaine why he feels he is the right person to join the Board of Health? Mr. Fontaine said it would be his experience and knowledge of being an inspector for about eighteen years. He started with the Town in 2006 and during that time he was a Board Member for about 5-6 years while being Chair for almost two years. He has Title V, food code and housing code experience. His boots have been on the floor, done numerous inspections, all different aspects from some of the worst things in town to you know. I've put my time in and it's always had a good place in his heart, he has been out of it for a little while but when the opportunity arose and felt it was time to bring his knowledge back to the town he loves noting that he is proud that he was born and raised in Ludlow.

Mr. Alves wanted to ask Mr. Fontaine about the nursing program, explaining that there have been employment opportunities, but they just can't seem to get nursing applicants to come in and wanted to know what ideas Mr. Fontaine would have to bolster the program? Mr. Fontaine explained that right now the biggest thing is money and making sure they are in line with everyone across the state. He stated that he knows a lot of people who are trying to get out of the hospitals, but they pay so much better. He feels that they really need to advertise the town because it has a

small-town atmosphere and to push the day-to-day opportunities including the work schedule, being home every night.

Ms. Lamas asked if there were any last comments or thoughts that Mr. Fontaine would like to share? He said no, he laid it all out there.

6:30 PM

Ms. Lamas introduced herself as the chair for the Ludlow Board of Health and thanked Ms. Yelinek for coming. Each member from each Board introduced themselves.

Mr. Tavares thanked her for coming. His question to Ms. Yelinek was what motivated her to apply for a position on the Board of Health at this point in her career? Ms. Yelinek explained that she was born and raised in Ludlow, left for a period of time, she came back when she was a nurse. She worked in Colado for awhile during the pandemic. She noted that she has had many different experiences within her healthcare career that have taught her so many different things including more recently a family member who was ill, but is doing very well now, she kind of shifted even before she was a nurse, she was working with people with illness and disabilities. Once she got to see resources put into place in the outside world. She became fascinated with the idea of how is this diagnosed and treated and spent a lot of time in the clinical arena. She feels that she is in a place in her life and in her career where she feels ready to prevent people from getting sick. She has always had an interest in public health and was searching websites to be an emergency preparedness volunteer several years ago before her family member became ill. She felt that she had the time, space and energy to contribute more meaningfully to the community and then she saw that this opportunity had opened and thought this would be a good learning opportunity for herself as a citizen of Ludlow to lend her skills that she has learned over the years as a nurse and prior to nursing because she is appreciative for those years just as much as she is for the ones in the clinical setting.

Mr. Tavares expressed to her that she mentioned being a nurse and was in Colorado, can she describe her professionalism and educational background in Public Health? At the first college when she graduated with her undergraduate in 2012, she was a double major in communication sociology and had every intention of going to law school but decided to take a gap year and work for a nonprofit in Colorado where she did adaptive recreation by working with individuals with disabilities, illnesses, veterans, and loved it. She couldn't see herself pursuing a route that didn't interact directly with people. Those first educational experiences taught her how to think, accept other people, how to critically analyze situations around her and to communicate with others. As she went through different careers and different opportunities throughout her twenty's she decided that for herself it all circled back to health with every different thing she had been doing. She felt that nursing offered an opportunity to apply her skills to different settings. She likes to learn new things and knew she would have the ability once she became a nurse to work in a variety of different settings. Curiosity is something that is very important to her, so she went back to school and did an accelerated nursing program at the University of New England in Maine because it was a unique opportunity to both train at a level one trauma center and she was able to do a lot of cross cultural

experiences with rural communities and feels with rural health especially, they fit in with this weird mix where they are not necessarily away from resources and access to healthcare but certainly do not fit the same criteria noting that she lives in Newton and she goes to Beth Israel for her services which is why this opportunity appealed to her because even though Ludlow is bigger than it used to be, it has a lot of small town characteristics. Every job has been a learning experience and is how she would describe nursing.

Mr. Silva thanked her for her interest and coming. Mr. Silva explained to Ms. Yelinek that this position is until March of 2026. Does she have any intentions of running in March for the position itself? Ms. Yelinek expressed that she has political views but has never been political. Ms. Yelinek feels that this would be a unique opportunity to step up and fill a space where maybe she can contribute and to see if she is right for the position as much as the position is right for her. She wants to be in a good space but does not want to waste space if there is someone more qualified. She thinks she would do okay running for the position but noted that she does not know how to campaign but does know how to shake hands and say hi. The biggest skill that she has taken away from nursing is learning how to communicate effectively with a whole variety of people and would consider running in March but thought it would be a nice period of time in which to gain an understanding about the role and the specifics of being on the Board of Health and to determine if it is a good fit.

Mr. Silva asked how she would handle potential conflicts of interest when her personal views differ from the recommended Board policies? Ms. Yelinek feels that his questions is uniquely fitted to nursing because what she chooses to do or what she believes about health and how to approach it and how to practice it in her daily life often differs from patients. In a hospital setting or in an outpatient setting they have very strict clinical guidelines that are evidence-based, clinical based, and their objective in nature for that very reason. She feels that all things in the world, health should be A political, noting there is a political side to anything if you want to make is so but does feel that as much as there is a subjective and caring component to the profession that she has decided on and thinks that at the end of the day there needs to be guiding principals to work within in order to practice effectively and for objectivity to be maintained and have consist decision making. Because she was born and raised in Ludlow and knows people, she is sure that she would have to recuse herself at some point if something became a conflict of interest. She expressed that she loves a policy.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked her for coming in. His question to Ms. Yelinek is regarding Fiscal oversight of the Health Departments budget. What is her experience and comfort level with reviewing and approving budgets including providing fiduciary oversight? When she worked for and prior to becoming a nurse and was rising in the ranks of adaptive sports, she started off as an instructor and worked her way to program coordinator, she did have to do a lot of budgeting because it was a non-profit which meant accounting for lessons, for input, output and a lot of it was volunteer run. They had to be accountable because there were limited dollars to work within and how best to maximize it for the outcome of their participants. As far as budgeting and healthcare, she does not have experience in this area and is not entirely sure she wants that in a hospital setting. She hasn't been

strictly in charge of managing a budget, but they are in charge, from a nursing standpoint, paying attention to how they are coding and how they are billing for the services provided whether the patient will be covered by insurance or not covered and they may be more of a public health initiative. She does think that in everything they do, in addition to it being fiscally responsible, they try to be upfront and honest with the patient. They try to figure out how they can maximize services and work collaboratively while understanding that a lot of what they do is funded by taxpayer dollars and to be cognoscente of the fact that we are all contributing to this in some ways and how can we best manage it appropriately, fairly and responsibly.

Mr. Rosenblum asked her about her career goals. She explained that if she was asked this question fifteen years ago that she would be sitting here applying for a Board of Health position as a nurse she would have thought they were crazy. She thought she would still be living out West or be in Washington where she did a Maricorp year. Her career goal would be to continue striving to be herself and right now she is slowly working towards her master's in public health while working at UMASS. She would like to keep achieving but doesn't have a specific end goal in mind, she just knows that she would like it to be education based because she loves teaching, and her favorite part about being a nurse is educating patients and co-workers and being educated by people. It will most likely be in the healthcare arena but expressed that she loves being outside and has done some different wilderness medicine options.

Mr. Gennette thanked Ms. Yelinek for coming. Mr. Gennette noted that Public Health is determined as promoting and protecting the health of all people and their communities. What does she see as the most pressing health challenges facing Ludlow today? She has worked within the public school system as a substitute school nurse for several years and feels that engaging the youth in Ludlow on how to be proactive in their own health and teaching them ways to be active which isn't to say that every age group isn't important but thinks more than ever that there are different ways of communicating than traditionally. She feels that even with families, the way they communicate is a little bit different. Unlike most countries in the world, there are chronic health problems like obesity, Type II diabetes and things that are preventable, and her hope is to find ways to engage kids and more importantly engage families by utilizing the parks and/or other resources within Ludlow and to collaborate effectively because this would go a long way toward creating a healthy community and a community where people are more involved with one another. She explained that the previous health surgeon wrote a prescription for America and the end of his term that talked about how loneliness was like an epidemic in this country. Even though everyone is more connected than ever, we are more isolated than ever and feel that finding creative ways to build and improve health outcomes through community based initiatives would be her goal.

Mr. Gennette asked her how the nursing program can be improved? She does not know Ms. Kramer, the public health nurse in town, but thinks that nursing is most often underutilized in different settings. She explained that it is traditionally a field where they are seen as caregivers with the soft skills where people don't trust them to think clinically or it's just do the orders that are given to you. That is true in both areas where they want to be caring and do things appropriately and follow policy. She does think that it would be nice to figure out a way to have nursing be more involved and

maybe even collaborate with school nursing and feels it would be a good way to bridge the gap about the family outreach initiative that she spoke about earlier. She also discussed that there is substance use issues in every town and knows that with the Mill Towns Health Initiative they are trying to do a lot with that, that she feels is wonderful. She also likes that Narcan is free and feels that doing community-based education initiatives would be excellent and to do them more frequently to be more accessible because there seems to be this invisible barrier between "I can reach out to the health department if I have a problem" or they as nurses can reach out to the patients if they have a problem, but if they can greet one another and exchange with one another when they are well how far would that go to create problems from surfacing in the first place. And feels that this speaks to her goal of being an educator and believes education is a powerful tool and that sometimes it is just not applied earlier enough in their points of contact with people. Her number one priority would be accessibility.

Mr. Gennette noted that Ms. Yelinek mentioned disabilities and explained they have a large number of seniors in their community and wanted to know what her thoughts are on that as well as the veterans. She knows that the nursing program does go to the Senior Center for blood pressures and they can do the same with the veterans. She expressed that one thing she is learning in her current position is that not only can nurses go out and meet people, she explained that we live in an area where we're isolated from Boston but not so isolated that there aren't other services and feels that making an effort with veterans, we tend to think mental health but certainly there are many different components of that but there are also a lot of resources out there and we are not so far from Leeds that we cannot figure out way to make that more valuable. As far as aging seniors go, she has some in her own family, she worked on an initiative before her family member got sick, she called it **Wellness Night** for her family, relatives and friends that were fifty years old and older, this consisted of an evening of gentle movement and exercise, a healthy based meal, learning to cook and it was community based, a reason to get together to do something and maybe learn something. It's a pipedream on a larger scale but feels that these kinds of programs and programs that already exist at the senior center that get seniors together and if they have a disability, she feels that accommodation and inclusion are important and there are ways to work around it. She mentioned that even though there are different age groups and they have different needs, it's the same concept of trying to get people involved in community. And why couldn't kids be involved with helping older individuals? She feels there is room for cross collaboration across ages.

Mr. Alves thanked Ms. Yelinek for her interest. Mr. Alves explained that the Board of Health provides strategic leadership to the Health Department, it supports the Public Health Director and wanted to know how she would ensure and foster effective collaboration with Town Officials and the Health Department staff. Ms. Yelinek thinks that relationships are foundational to anything and sees herself as an easy-going person. She feels that transparency and trust is a big deal. If the Board oversees leadership and any kind of staffing for the health department, she thinks collaboration, but trust and transparency is the biggest thing and working across differences. She expressed that everyone at the table probably has a different opinion on vaccines, or any healthcare topic that is out there in the news today, health is super charged because it's the thing that unites everyone.

Anyone can see themselves as A political and may think they don't care about health in their town, but everyone likes their garbage taken out on time, going to a restaurant, leave, and not be sick the next day. She thinks that finding ways to be open, transparent and work across differences is very important and to some degree it's trust building exercises to disagree but use the disagreements as a way to ask the hard questions as opposed to finding hard stops.

Ms. Lamas thanked Ms. Yelinek for coming. Ms. Lamas explained that the Board of Health is continually evolving to align with statewide public health standards, what strategies would she use to engage Ludlow residents in Board of Health initiatives or decisions? Ms. Yelinek noted that there are open meetings and meetings are televised and feels that it gets harder to reach engaged people in person but thinks there is a need for it. She is wondering if there is a happy medium where they could find themselves having open forums or find more informal ways to convey what is going on at the state level. She often thinks that people see guidance and policies as hard lines of being told what to do as opposed to what is being said and implemented, why it is being done and how it might affect their everyday life. A Q & A forum may be beneficial noting that it could open some hard questions and hard stops. Ms. Yelinek expressed that people work hard and this is a blue-collar town, they may not have the time to read everything that comes out of the state to sit and understand it but if people are given an applicable understanding and are met where they are it would make a difference. One option would be to utilize where people go, which could mean meeting people at football or soccer games.

Mr. Tavares asked Ms. Yelinek why she feels she is the right person to join the Board. She feels that she brings a lot of different experiences, she is proud to be a registered nurse, proud of the things that she has done in the critical care setting, public health setting and very proud that she wants to continue doing stuff. She would describe herself as motivated and does not like to sit still. She is quick to learn, study and understand. She also noted that she is at a young enough point in her life and that she can still be flexible in her viewpoints, still willing to learn, still trying to see who she is and where she fits in the town. She would like for the people that she has learned from to shine through and offer something to the town that has given so much to her. She is very proud to be from Ludlow and thinks they are very lucky in a lot of ways and try to bring gratitude from her past to hopefully make it a better place for the future.

Mr. Silva explained to Ms. Yelinek that the town had a nursing program that was very extensive, and they are down to one and it's not that they are not trying to bolster the program. What does she see as a benefit, obviously pay is one, to help them have nurses come into the community?

Ms. Yelinek asked in terms of, for the town directly or the Mill Towns health initiative?

Ms. Lamas clarified what is posted, through the Shared Services Grant (Mill Town Public Health Coalition) is a part-time public health nurse position, and they currently have a full-time public health nurse in the department serving the town. The Shared Nurse would be for four communities and is currently open.

Ms. Yelinek stated that maybe she did not have the right experience but did apply for the Mill Towns Initiative a year ago and never heard back from anyone and feels communication would be good. From what she has heard from colleges and has found that hospital work is very hard, it has always been hard and especially difficult right now because there is a lot of burnouts. She thinks that for a lot of nurses, flexibility is key so if the pay wasn't as high as a hospital setting but flexible hours could be built in, because people may want less of the Monday through Friday 8:00-4:00 schedule and maybe by offering a few ten-hour days and do some work on the weekends at a community event or do some home visits she feels that flexibility is a big thing. Offering incentives about what it could do for the applicant such as flexibility with hours, easy drive time and proximity, and wonderful people to work with may help and a lot of people, like the idea of making their own schedule and feels that public health is a great way to get creative because it's not just one person following orders, it's a team making decisions on what might be best for a community. It's an opportunity to get involved and share ideas.

Ms. Yelinek wanted to thank everyone so much and stated she is grateful for the opportunity to get to meet both Boards because she feels that whether she gets the position or not that they took time out of their schedule, day, and life to be here doing hard work that isn't always appreciated.

Mr. Tavares made a motion to discuss the first candidate, Mr. Fontaine, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum.

Mr. Tavares feels that Mr. Fontaine has eighteen years' experience with the Health Department. He feels there are a lot of good things about Mr. Fontaine and expressed that he really enjoyed the second candidate, Ms. Yelinek, because she has something that is strong and since he has been with the Health Department, he has stated from the first day when the citizens of Ludlow voted for him that it was because he is a big supporter of the nursing program. He feels that it would be good to bring someone in like Ms. Yelinek with her qualifications and to have a nurse join the Board, she may have some different ideas to bring to the table and noted he is a supporter of the nursing program.

Mr. Gennette noted that he has a little bit of experience with Mr. Fontaine because of the business he had in town as an inspector and feels that he is a good day-to-day operator, he knows his job well and is glad that he came in for this position. He feels that he could do this job, but his only concern would be that he only knows the day-to-day well and that might impede the Boards function in oversight.

Mr. Gennette loved that Ms. Yelinek discussed people with disabilities, the veterans, kids and much to what Mr. Rosenblum was saying that it is an entire community of people and that was wonderful. She has great experience and great energy and feels that she has great ideas as she was sitting there and talking it out with both Boards what she could do, maybe this would work or it wouldn't. And likes that she has actions that she would like to take and feels that is what separated Ms. Yelinek from Mr. Fontaine.

Mr. Tavares asked Mr. Gennette what he meant by imposing the Board and stated that he personally knows Mr. Fontaine too because of his business and because Mr. Fontaine would do the inspections.

Mr. Gennette explained that the responsibility of the Board is to oversee the director of the position and not there to manipulate the day-to-day operations and thinks that Mr. Fontaine is in a position where that is his experience and that is what he knows and feels that he will bring that to the Board but noting that is a Board level and not a day to day level.

Mr. Silva just wanted to express that they have a candidate that knows the position in an out and there is no question about that , he may not be up to date with current updates but knows many, many tools, and what happens within the office, it's overwhelming to have a candidate with that kind of experience to come in. He also stated that Ms. Yelinek looks very outgoing and has no doubt that she could do the job. The reason he asked if she was going to run is because if they are going to put her in this position, she will learn a few things and she will have to be taught a few things and then there will be an election. He noted that Mr. Fontaine is willing to run for election and that to him, it is something that he really likes.

Mr. Rosenblum said that Ms. Yelinek is like a breath of fresh air and wanted to make note of the fact that the first candidate who withdrew wrote a letter of recommendation for Ms. Yelinek stating that he grew up with her, knows her and knows that she has no self-serving agenda or bias and felt that it really came through in her effervescence and smiled because he has a daughter who is graduating from nursing school and just wants to help people and do the right thing. He feels that she has a different view and what struck him was that she was questioned about the seniors and noted that no one talks about the kids and stated that health is the whole town. He is one hundred percent for the seniors but questioned, do we wait until the kids are seniors to take care of the people in town and feel they should take care of them from the beginning to the end. He said she is back and forth but feels that is because she is thinking about everything. Mr. Fontaine has been with the town for eighteen years and to the point that it is being said that he knows everything, and he also feels that it might impede progress. He stated that if he could make a motion, it would be Ms. Yelinek one hundred percent based on a recommendation from someone who was going to do this and said no because he felt she was basically the best person that the Board could possibly have for this position.

Mr. Alves noted Mr. Fontaine's eighteen years of experience but that he thinks it may be a detriment having eighteen years in the same place and feels that is where Ms. Yelinek has a differentiator with not only the depth of experience but the breath of experience, different parts of the country, she mentions the disabled, people with illnesses, the elderly, and rural communities and thinks that a new perspective is often good and she seems very open minded. He thought the way she interviewed was great with great depth to answers. In terms of Mr. Silva's comment about running, it is not a factor for himself because even if someone is willing to run there is no guarantee that they are going to win and not sure how that factors in.

Ms. Lamas expressed that she echoes a lot of what Mr. Rosenblum has said and Mr. Alves as well. She thought that Mr. Fontaine does have a lot of experience, but he focused on housing and inspections, which is mostly what he knows given his eighteen years of experience. The Board of Health is continually evolving to align with the public health standards and by bringing in a fresh perspective with new ideas and said that she loved Ms. Yelinek's ideas because you can tell that she is a critical thinker by her statement about being curious and thinks that this is important to be a member of the Board of Health to ask questions and really learn what is going on and education is key. She also brings into her nursing perspective, the breath of nursing and her nursing experience would only be an asset to build off the nursing program that folks have asked questions about.

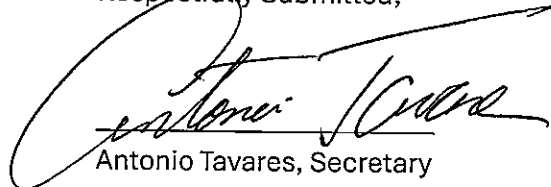
Mr. Tavares noted that it's Ms. Yelinek's nursing experience that he was most impressed by and as everyone well knows he feels that growing the nursing program is important to do more in the town than what they are currently doing. Mr. Tavares believes that the citizens have given a lot to the town and deserve more.

Mr. Rosenblum made a motion to appoint Ms. Lauren Yelinek to fill the current vacancy on the Board of Health, seconded by Mr. Alves. All in favor 6-0.

Mr. Rosenblum made a motion to close the Select Board meeting at 7:05 PM, seconded by Mr. Alves. All in favor 4-0.

Mr. Tavares made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM, seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio Tavares", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Antonio Tavares, Secretary