

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2026

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2026 MAY -6 P 2:51

TOWN OF FLORENCE

Members Present: Lauren Yelinek; Chair, Antonio Tavares; Secretary, Kelly Lamas; Member

Also Present: Paulina Matusik; Health Director

Meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by Ms. Lamas and the Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Monthly Business:

A motion was made by Ms. Lamas to appoint Ms. Yelinek as Chairperson, seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 2-0. A motion was made by Ms. Lamas to appoint Mr. Tavares as Secretary, seconded by Ms. Yelinek. All in favor 2-0. Reorganization will be sent to all town departments.

Mr. Tavares signed the meeting minutes from March 17, 2026. Mr. Tavares made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 17, 2026, seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

Actions/Correspondence:

Ms. Lamas made a motion to nominate Ms. Anderson, ACO as Animal Inspector, seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Matusik gave an update on the Whitney Park Summer Camp. A meeting was held with a member of the Recreational Commission and Town Officials to continue with open communication and to offer clear next steps for the camp to open at the end of June.

Other Discussion:

Ms. Matusik updated the Board with the Health Department updates. She began by saying Happy National Public Health week and this year's theme is "Ready, Set, Action". She showed the Board a bingo card Ms. McMurray created that shows what the Health Department and the Shared Services do with the hopes of engaging the community; this has been posted on Facebook and their website.

Ms. Matusik explained to the Board that they have started a new intern initiative. Their department currently has three interns with a fourth one that will be starting in May.

- MPH Candidate – will be completing a hundred and twenty-hour practicum that focuses on data analysis and reportable disease trends to help with their upcoming vaccine season.
- A full-time bachelor's level intern is working with the department through the end of June. She will be shadowing the Shared staff and working on a tick prevention project across all four communities. The intern will also work on updating some of the Town's by-laws to help with the policy aspect for the department.

- The high school intern has been with the department and is working on the Canva platform. She is currently working on promotional items for the Health Fair.
- DPH intern – will have two projects this summer. The first project is to increase business knowledge of common food code violations to prevent food borne illnesses to aid and smooth the permitting process. The second project will be to increase the resident's knowledge of social service programs offered through the Health Department.

Ms. Matusik updated the Board regarding the sharp's containers through the Opioid Settlement funds which have been sent to Mr. Strange, the Town Administrator, and will be on the Select Board's agenda for tomorrow, April 7, 2026.

Ms. Matusik noted that she will be on vacation from April 21, 2026, through April 27, 2026.

Ms. Matusik updated the Board with the Shared Services updates. Ms. Hertz, the part-time regional nurse, her hours have changed slightly, and she will be working on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00AM to 4:00 PM.

Ms. McMurray's next CPR class will be held on April 21, 2026, at 10:30 AM.

The tick kits are now available in the Health Department.

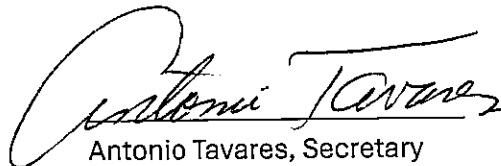
Ms. Yelinek asked if there was an update regarding the Community Health Advocate position? Ms. Matusik explained that she is waiting for the letter of offer.

The legal notices were reviewed by the Board.

The next Board of Health meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 4:30 PM in Hearing Room #1.

Ms. Lamas made a motion to adjourn the meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 4:52 PM, seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Antonio Tavares, Secretary