The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Carolyn Rogowski-Duarte, Chair; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Michael LaFever, Member; and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present with Health Agent Andrea Crete recording the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Ms. Rogowski. The meeting took place remotely via Town of Ludlow teleconference phone line. **This meeting was held during the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak.**

Ms. Crete discussed with the Board Governor Bakers' recent Order on wearing face masks. The agenda item being discussed and voted on pertaining to an Order drafted by Mr. Crete identical to the Chicopee Board of Health's Order regarding the wearing of face masks in public places does not need to be implemented by the Board of Health with the Governors' new Order in effect. There was no discussion by the Board members or motion to implement any separate Order for wearing face masks from what the Governor has implemented.

Ms. Crete gave an update on the Gandara Center. The Center is improving infection control measures. Nurse Director Cheryl Messer has done unannounced inspections as well as an inspection with an Infection Control Staff from the MA DPH.

Ms. Crete discussed with the Board complaints received regarding Chapin Street Variety and Randall's Farm in regards to how the establishments were handling COVID-19 prevention. Nurse Director Cheryl Messer has gone to both establishments and educated staff and managers on infection control measures the establishments can take to improve the control and spread of COVID-19. She handed out some information they can post to alert customers on wearing a face mask when entering. Both establishments are doing their best to comply.

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Mrs. Rogowski-Duarte expressed some concerns about Keystone Commons and new residents being able to enter the Assisted Living Facility. She feels this could increase the risk of COVID-19 if new residents are coming in from COVID-19 positive facilities and or if they are positive themselves with the Virus and potentially spread it to existing residents and staff. Ms. Crete informed the Board that she has spoken to Town Council Rose Crowley about this concern and was told that unless there is a crisis situation happening and the Facility is not adhering to MA DPH guidance for infection control and mitigating the spread of COVID-19, an Order from the local Board of Health to prohibit new residents from entering the facility would not be recommended. If the Board felt there was a situation happening at the Facility that was concerning, we should be in direct contact with Keystone Commons as well as the MA DPH who licenses these facilities to resolve the issue.
Ms. Crete stated that Cheryl Messer has been in contact with Keystone Commons and has given them some contacts at MA DPH that could help with any infection control questions they have. Mrs. Messer did not have concerns about how Keystone is handling and managing any spread of COVID-19 in their Facility.

Ms. Crete informed the Board of Nurse Angela Kramer's update on positive COVID-19 cases and that to date there are 75 confirmed positive cases in the Town of Ludlow.

Ms. Crete informed the Board about a failed septic system on 834 Moore Street. A septic system design came in from Lori McCool and it was too late to put on the agenda. Ms. Crete stated she has reviewed the plans and would be recommending to the Board to approve the Local Upgrade Approval request for offset to Groundwater at three and a half (3.5) feet instead of the required four feet and the use of one deep observation hole instead of the required two due to site limitations for digging. Since this is a failed system and currently posing an environmental hazard, a new system needs to be installed immediately. Ms. Crete informed the Board she made the decision to approve the plans in order to allow for the timely installation and remedy of the hazard. She will put the septic plans on the agenda for the next Board of Health meeting to allow the Board to formally vote to approve the Local Upgrade Approval request.

Mrs. Rogowski-Duarte informed the Board that the elections are postponed until June 1, 2020. For early voting one can email or send in a letter to the Clerks' office to request the ballot.

Board members selected the following dates for upcoming meetings: June 2, 2020.

Motion made by Mrs. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Lafever seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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