The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. Michael LaFever, Chairman; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Carolyn Rogowski-Duarte, Member; and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present. Minutes are being recorded by LCTV video and are being transcribed from the video. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mr. LaFever. **This meeting was held during the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak.**

Board members signed departmental bills.

Cheryl Messer-Lusty, Director of Nurses; Marianne Moura, RN; Angela Kramer, RN; and Sandra Table, RN met with the Board to discuss protocol in place for home visits to administer flu shots. Nursing staff are not performing any other home services at this time. Flu shots would be administered either in a doorway or outside. Nurses will not be entering the home. Ms. Rogowski inquired as to why pedicures cannot be performed inside homes. Ms. Moura explained that in office is more of a controlled environment. The pedicure area is constantly being cleaned and sanitized. Flu shots are an essential service and the exposure time is minimal compared to a pedicure, which could be 45 minutes or longer. Ms. Rogowski feels that homebound patients are being forgotten about. The nurses have contacted all patients and offered appointments in office. Ms. Kramer has had patients with mobility issues come to the office for appointments. Ms. Kramer would assist her patient into the building with the use of a walker or wheelchair. Ms. Rogowski feels that if we don't start home visits and if COVID continues, there would be budget cuts and possible loss of jobs. Ms. Rogowski stated that other visiting nurses are entering homes. Ms. Moura has contacted a few services and explained that visits are held in the doorway with the door open or outside. Ms. DeSantis assures that once the COVID numbers look good, and the staff are comfortable and safe, home visits will begin again.

Ms. Crete explained to the Board that the Fire Department has approved being billed for the cost of TB testing. Currently the cost for the tuberculin is $8.55/dose. It would be one bill to the department and not to the individual person. Ms. Rogowski would only approve if it is to the department. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to bill the Fire Department for the cost of the tuberculin and not for labor. Seconded by Ms. Rogowski. All in favor 3-0.

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Health Agent Report

Ms. Crete informed the Board of her inspections to date. There is a new restaurant called Sakura located at 456B Center St. Ms. Crete performed a preoperational inspection and everything was fine. Sakura has since opened for business.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 80 Margaret Lane, owned by Andrew Bristol. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for a 2-foot reduction to groundwater. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variance. Seconded by Ms. Rogowski. All in favor 3-0.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 223 Marion Circle, owned by Maria Fraga. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for a 2-foot reduction to groundwater. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variance. Seconded by Ms. Rogowski. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Crete discussed having Board members vote themselves as Authorized Agents to the Board of Health. This would be in case there were an emergency or a weekend event that Ms. Crete could not inspect. Ms. Rogowski stated that as long as she has been in the department, Board members were able to do inspections because they carried a badge. There was never a vote taken. Ms. Crete explained that without this vote, Boards can only discuss and vote on policies and procedures. The vote is more of a legality and would be forwarded to Town Counsel and the Selectmen. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve Board members as Authorized Agents. Seconded by Ms. Rogowski. All in favor 3-0.

Board members asked about badges. Currently only Mr. LaFever has a Commissioner badge. Ms. Crete will get more information and this will be addressed at an upcoming meeting. There is a possibility of ordering additional badges.

Ms. Rogowski further discussed home visits for pedicures. She feels that patients will be forgotten about and services will not continue. Ms. Rogowski stated that many homebound patients look forward to visits as comfort for them. Ms. Rogowski has received calls about this situation, but will not provide names. Ms. DeSantis stated that any patient that feels they have not been called for appointments in office, should call the office.

Ms. DeSantis asked if there has been any contact from the schools. Ms. Crete explained that the department has taken a step back and the schools will contact if assistance is needed.

Motion made by Ms. Rogowski to adjourn the meeting with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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