The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. Michael LaFever, Chairman; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; 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 4:01 p.m. by Mr. LaFever. **This meeting was held during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic.**

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Board Members welcomed the newly elected member, Kelly Lamas. She was elected to the Board on March 22, 2021 for a three-year term.

The Board reorganized as follows: Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to appoint Mr. LaFever as Chairman, seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0. Motion made by Mr. Lafever to appoint Ms. DeSantis as Secretary, seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0. Reorganization will be sent to all Town Departments.

Board members signed departmental bills.

Board members read the minutes of March 9, 2021. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

Ms. Crete introduced the Public Health Program Coordinator, Martha Seed. Ms. Seed went over what she has been working on the last couple of weeks. She is currently in the process of setting up a departmental Facebook page. Ms. Seed sent a survey out to town volunteers. There were 37 surveys sent out. As of now, only 10 responses have been received. There have been 2 volunteers that no longer want to serve. Ms. Seed would like to set up a volunteer drive-thru meet & greet. This would be done possibly after hours in the parking lot. There is also the possibility of producing a newsletter. With the help of Mr. Goshea, Ms. Seed is working on updating the town's Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) plan. Ms. Crete mentioned that the new EDS might be using Our Lady of Fatima Church. Currently it is set up for Baird Middle School. Ms. Crete feels the church has a better flow and better parking. There is also concern for the use of the school during school hours. This might disrupt classrooms if school is in session.

Ms. Lamas would like to connect Ms. Seed with the Community Benefits Advisory Council at Baystate Health. Ms. Lamas feels this would help with researching some of the needs for Ludlow. Currently there is no member from Ludlow on the council. The CBAC meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at 8:00a.m.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, RN to discuss the reduction of pedicure fees. The department increased the fee from $15.00 to $25.00 during the past year. This increase was due to the increased cost and time that each pedicure would consume do to COVID. Ms. Kramer states that when the clinic reopened, a lot of patients declined service due to the increase in fees. Ms. DeSantis inquired as to approximately how many patients the department currently sees. Ms. Kramer said less than 50. At the high point before COVID, the department had approximately 100 patients. Ms. Lamas inquired into the possibility of insurance billing. Ms. Kramer stated we are not set up for that. We don't have the capability to bill insurance. The flu vaccine is billed from UMASS. Ms. Lamas did speak to Jodi Zepke from the Senior Center about

the possibility of setting up a pedicure clinic over at the new center. This will be looked into at a future time. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to reduce the fee from $25.00 to $20.00. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0. The new fee will go into effect immediately.

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Ms. Kramer provided the Board with an update on COVID-19. There have been many changes in the virus over the course of the past year. There have been different degrees of symptoms in all patients throughout the year. Currently there is a downward trend. There is more of a recent concern from the variant B117. Ms. Kramer has also seen more cases in a younger crowd. Ms. Lamas asked how information could be relayed to younger people. Could we connect with Ludlow Cares? Is there a possibility of using social media? The fire department is looking into purchasing electronic signs. Could these be utilized to spread the message? Is there a possibility of working with the school nurses? These will be looked into.

Ms. Kramer informed the Board that the Palmer clinic is being converted into a regional COVID vaccine site. There is a possibility of up to 2000 doses at the site. This would allow for people to register from all over. The Palmer site would be advertised on the state website. The Ludlow nurses would no longer be able to schedule appointments for the site.

Ms. Kramer stated that overall Ludlow is above the state average for vaccines issued.

Health Agent Report

Ms. Crete provided the Board with a Public Service Announcement she will being running in The Register next week. It is to provide the public information about trash. It also states about the disposal of items while residents are doing spring cleaning. Ms. DeSantis asked if the department can provide names of people to remove items. Ms. Crete stated the department cannot make recommendations. There is information about the transfer station being included.

Board members reviewed food establishment inspections submitted by Ms. Crete.

There was a request for up to 5 chickens to be housed at 42 Highland Avenue. The homeowner would currently only like to house one chicken to teach his child how to care for it. There would be a possibility of adding more in the future. The birds would be housed in a shed like structure attached to the garage. The building is located in the rear of the property. Ms. Crete does not see an issue with allowing up to 5 chickens. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to allow up to 5 chickens at 42 Highland Ave. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Crete discussed removing the Animal Inspector position from the Board of Health. The responsibilities will be included with the Animal Control Officer. Any stipend that was in the Board of Health budget would be rolled into the ACO budget. Ms. DeSantis asked if Ms. Crete would continue as the back-up. Ms. Crete's nomination as Animal Inspector expires on March 31, 2021. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to remove the Animal Inspector position from the Board of Health. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0. A letter will be sent to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. DeSantis inquired if there have been any applicants for the vacant nursing position. Ms. Crete is unaware at this time. All applications are going to Human Resources. The current posting closes on March 24, 2021. There is a possibility of posting the job on Indeed. Currently the job is posted through the town website. It is also posted on the MHOA site and the MMA site.

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Board members discussed the upcoming meeting schedule. Currently the Board meets at 4:00. Ms. Lamas asked if the time can be pushed out until after 5:00 due to prior commitments from her job. Ms. DeSantis would also like to see meetings after 5:00. Mr. LaFever has no issues for the time of the meetings. Ms. DeSantis asked Ms. Crete if this would be an issue. Ms. Crete would adjust her schedule and come in later to reflect staying later in the evening. Board members have decided to hold meetings at 5:30 p.m. The schedule is normally the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Ms. Lamas inquired if the schedule will remain that. Board members agreed to try to keep to the 2nd and 4th Tuesday as much as possible. The meetings for April are scheduled for April 13 & 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m. with Ms. Lamas seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary