The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Michael LaFever, Chairman; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Kelly Lamas, 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 5:30 p.m. by Mr. LaFever. **This meeting was held during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic.**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 MAY 12 A 10:46
TOWN OF LUDLOW

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, by phone, to provide a COVID-19/contact tracing update. Ms. Kramer states the week has been much better. The town has only seen 35 positive cases within the last week. There have been a couple of outbreaks. The cases are not due to local or school sports or activities. The major issue is kids traveling to different towns for sports and being exposed. Ms. Kramer did speak to one facility. The facility only required a negative test result for a player to come back. Ms. Kramer provided education that if a person is not feeling good, don't let them in. At the Palmer clinic, Ms. Kramer has been seeing much more young people getting vaccinated with the hopes of returning to "normal". The Palmer clinic received a total of 1100 vaccines last week and 650 vaccines this week. It varies according to what the state sends to the clinic. These were all distributed. Ms. Kramer did say MAVEN should be reporting information on other COVID-19 variants. The State is looking into giving back the contact tracing to the CTC. Local boards would only handle harder cases. Most people are not as sick as a year ago. Lately cases have been more respiratory and not showing as much of a fever. There seems to be a lot of vaccine hesitancy. Ms. Kramer is trying to advocate for the vaccine. There is a possibility of putting information on the Board of Health Facebook page and/or something in The Register advocating for the vaccine. Overall, the State is doing very well in vaccinations and cases. Ms. Lamas asked if the numbers are broken down by region. Ms. Kramer said not at the moment. Ms. Lamas is curious to see the data for western Mass.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 59 Tower Road, owned by Anne Irvine. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for a 2-foot reduction to groundwater and for the use of a sieve analysis in lieu of a perc test. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to approve the variance. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

The Town is looking into a reopening plan for Town Hall. There has been communication with other cities and towns to see how they are reopening. Ms. DeSantis feels it is about time. The walkup windows could still be utilized. The process right now is to come up with a soft reopening plan. There is a possibility of having "by appointment only" on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This would depend on staffing and capacity. All staff are completely back to work. Ms. Crete is working with the Town Administrator on the plan. Ms. DeSantis feels it could be a conservative approach for the first month and then reevaluate to see how things are progressing.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis for the Board to enter into Executive Session at 5:58pm and reconvene after. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. Roll call vote: Ms. Lamas – yes, Ms. DeSantis – yes, Mr. LaFever – yes.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:14pm.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 MAY 12 A 10:44
TOWN OF LUDLOW

The meeting was joined by John Diotalevi (Polish American Citizens Club) and Fred Gredha (Gremio Lusitano Club). There was a complaint received by the department from Samuel Silva claiming COVID noncompliance in the private clubs. The complaint states that the PACC violated the gathering amounts for bingo. The complaint also claims there was an event held at the Ludlow Country Club for 250 people. The complainant was informed of the meeting held tonight but did not attend or call in. The complainant was not asking to attend the meeting, just for the email to be read aloud. Mr. Diotalevi is questioning the validity of the complaint. There is no record of a Samuel Silva as a member of the 3 clubs. Mr. LaFever states the complaint could still be valid and needs to be looked into. The complaint states that during bingo nights, there are more than 100 people present. Mr. Diotalevi ensures that the PACC works closely with all departments for compliance. The PACC only sets up 100 chairs for bingo nights. There is no one allowed to enter unless they purchase a bingo package. The doors do not open until 4:00pm. People are lined up outside beginning at 1:30pm. Prior to offering bingo, Mr. Diotalevi contacted the State with the reopening plan. The State saw no issues as long as the local Board of Health would allow them to go forward. Mr. Diotalevi presented Ms. Crete with the reopening plan for bingo. Ms. Crete had no issues with the plan. The PACC has to file paperwork with the State Lottery Commission containing how many packets were sold. On one occasion there was 102 packets purchased. This was due to a few people purchasing more than 1 bingo packet. Ms. Crete has not gone out to inspect since the receipt of the complaint. It is the only complaint that the department has received. Mr. Diotalevi stated that the MABCC has come in to the club last Wednesday for inspection. They did not find any violations. The complaint about the Ludlow Country Club was for a funeral reception. The complaint states that there was 250 people expected at the reception. There was expected to be up to 100 people attending, yet only 48 were present. The club did prepare food for 250 people. The family wanted to donate and feed local law enforcement. There was a response from Tony Tavares (Creative Catering/Ludlow Country Club) read to the Board regarding this complaint. Ms. Lamas feels that complaints should be kept anonymous until the department can follow up on the complaint. By forwarding the complaint just adds a level of frustration to the business owners/managers. Ms. Crete told the Board that this complaint did not want to be kept anonymous. It was to be read at both the Board of Health and Selectmen's meetings.

Ms. Lamas has heard a lot of feedback from the community about the Board of Health not responding to COVID complaints. Ms. Crete feels the department is trying to do a sufficient job. There is not enough time to just drive around and check on every location. Ms. Crete a lot of times follows up with either forwarding the complaint or a conversation with the parties involved. There have been almost 200 compliance checks performed by the town nurses. Ms. Lamas inquired if there was an internal tracking system in place for complaints. Ms. Crete did say the department has a complaint intake form that would be filled out and forwarded to her. She would then decide on what steps to take with follow-up. A lot of times the complaints are received anonymously. Ms. DeSantis states there is a perception of the department working behind a wall and doesn't do anything. Ms. DeSantis would like to come up with a solution on how to correct this perception. Ms. Lamas and Ms. DeSantis fell that there needs to be more

transparency and better clarity of the departmental responses to complaints. Ms. Lamas would like to see a shared form that everyone in the department can use when COVID complaints come in. This could be done through a shared server or possibly Dropbox.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 MAY 12 A 10:44
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Ms. DeSantis asked Ms. Crete if there will be follow-up about the Executive Session. Ms. Crete does not feel the need to meet again. Ms. Crete did reiterate that if the Board does receive a grievance, there are steps in place to follow.

Motion made by Ms. Lamas to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary