The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, June 22, 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.

Board members read the minutes of June 8, 2021. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

Board members signed departmental bills.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, by phone.

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Ms. Kramer provided a COVID update to the board. The town has only seen 4 cases since June 1, 2021. The last positive case was on June 16, 2021. The state overall is heading in the right direction with approximately 4.1 million individuals being vaccinated. The last vaccine clinic to be held in Palmer will be on June 30, 2021. There is a concern over the delta variant, it is a lot more transmissible.

Ludlow Cares will be setting up a table at the July 9th Pioneers game. Martha Seed will be attending the event with Ms. Kramer. Ms. Kramer has spoken to Big Y about the possibility of offering an incentive to those who get the vaccine. Big Y is currently piloting a program in Springfield offering a $10 gift card. Ms. Kramer spoke to So Cool Gifts about doing the same. So Cool Gifts is willing to possibly provide a coupon along with possibly a free mask.

Ms. Lamas asked what kind of educational materials will be brought to the Pioneers event. Ms. Kramer mentioned the bags that were made for the volunteer open house. She will also look on the state clearinghouse for some updated material to bring. Ms. Lamas would like to see the literacy survey to address hesitancy brought to the event. This would be a great opportunity to gather information. Ms. Kramer would have to ask, because this is a Ludlow Cares event and not part of the Board of Health.

Maria Azevedo, 182 Lakeview Avenue, came in to meet with the board. Ms. Azevedo is asking for a special permit to house up to 25 chickens on her property. Ms. Crete did receive a complaint of a rooster. Since the complaint was filed, the rooster has been removed. Ms. Crete does not see any issues for allowing the special permit. Board members agree to allow for the chickens and no roosters. A letter will be sent to the homeowner with approval for up to 25 chickens and no roosters.

5:30pm – Octavia Anderson, Nomination for Animal Inspector

Ms. Anderson introduced herself to the board. Ms. Anderson was an Officer for TJO animal control in the past. Ms. Crete asked if she had any experience with farm animals. Ms. Anderson has been around horses and is educating herself on the other animals. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to nominate Ms. Anderson as Animal Inspector. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0. The proper paperwork will be submitted to DAR.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 732 Fuller Street, owned by Philip Ouellette. Engineer Robert Sheehan is asking for 1-foot reduction to groundwater from 4ft required to 3ft proposed, to decommission the onsite well, and the use of a sieve analysis as a substitute for a perc test. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variances. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0. The site is still pending approval from Conservation.

Ms. DeSantis asked about the Pioneers event. Ms. Lamas has seen a flyer on the Ludlow Forum. The event is mainly focused on Ludlow Cares awareness.

Ms. DeSantis attended an online program on the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The program spoke of the standardization of Local Boards of Health. There are currently 351 boards throughout the state. In reviewing the information, Ms. DeSantis feels that Ludlow has met what the State says we should be doing as a Board of Health. Some of the main points that were mentioned were, standardization, uniformity, and reporting of data. The State would like to transfer to a centralized reporting system throughout. There was mention of funding for local boards. The State is really looking into centralization and collaboration amongst communities and the regionalization of health services.

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Ms. Lamas provided input from a report provided by the State. It speaks of the cross jurisdictional sharing of services with individual boards not giving up statutory authority. Ms. Lamas did speak to the State about funding. The State is pushing for the sharing of services and would be providing funding for these services. This plan is hopefully going to take effect within the next 5 years. Massachusetts is the only state left that does not have regionalization of its health departments. Ms. DeSantis feels we should be planning for the here and now. Ms. Lamas mentioned the 7 Foundations of Public Health Services. This report provides a more in depth break down of the 10 Essentials. Ms. Crete asked if the Board feels that Ludlow needs to be part of a regional service. Ms. Crete feels with the restructuring and staffing, that it is not necessary. Ms. Lamas inquired as to why. Ms. Crete feels that we have the proper staff in place compared to other small local boards. Ms. Lamas is not set on regionalization. She would like to really focus on what services the department provides and the possibility of restructuring those services. Ms. Lamas would like to see our nurses provide services at the senior center 1 Friday each month. Ms. Lamas is not for the approval of a new inspector position at this time. Ms. Lamas feels that the department really must look at the direction the State is moving. There could be the possibility of restructuring services and the efficiency of services the department provides to maximize the time of the current staff.

Ms. Crete would like to change her job title from Health Agent to Health Director. Ms. Lamas feels that a Health Director should be taking control of emergency preparedness for the town. Ms. Crete feels that this would be a major piece of Ms. Seed's position. Ms. Lamas would really like to look at restructuring how the department can meet the needs of the community while efficiently providing the services the department provides. Ms. Lamas reiterated that she would not be in favor of hiring a new inspector position. Ms. DeSantis said the board has investigated reducing the hands-on services the department provides (showers, pedicures, etc.). Ms. Lamas would like to see nursing services be more scheduled and structured with the possibility of

performing pedicures at the senior center. That way it would provide more time to focus on other needs of the community. Ms. DeSantis feels that the Public Health Coordinator, Ms. Seed, should focus more on the community needs. Ms. Lamas would like to see more collaboration between Ms. Kramer and Ms. Seed to provide better outreach to the town.

Ms. Crete states that pedicures are not a public health service. The department is no longer providing pedicures at Keystone. Jodi from the senior center reached out asking about providing pedicures. The department will no longer be providing the service at the senior center. The senior center is looking into hiring an outside company to provide pedicures. There is a possibility of providing a blood pressure clinic at the senior center once a month.

Ms. Crete feels that once the services are restructured or eliminated, there will be more time to focus on the public health needs of the community. Ms. Crete would like to keep pedicures for just the homebound.

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Ms. Lamas provided a copy of the 2019 needs assessment for the town to Ms. Seed. Ms. Seed is currently going through this assessment to help develop public health programs for the town. Ms. Lamas states that for Ludlow, the following 3 areas are highlighted within the report: cardiovascular hospitalizations, mental health hospitalizations, and chlamydia. These should be the focus points for Ms. Seed to develop programs and education. Ms. Crete has been setting goals for Ms. Seed. Ms. Lamas would like to see Ms. Seed creating more contacts within the town. Ms. Lamas would like to possibly form an advisory council with local churches and businesses. Ms. DeSantis asked Ms. Crete about starting programs within the town. Ms. Crete feels that if the town hires a fulltime inspector, she would have more time to spend creating programs within the town. Ms. Crete will provide the board with a proposed job description for a Health Director.

Ms. DeSantis does feel that if a new inspector is hired, it would free up Ms. Crete's time to focus on creating programs to focus on other parts of public health. Ms. Lamas asked what expertise Ms. Crete brings regarding creating public health programs. Ms. Crete has worked for numerous municipal health departments. Most of the time has been in inspectional services. Ms. Crete has applied for local grants to help provide education and training.

Ms. Lamas would like to see a pedicure clinic held at the senior center in July. Mr. LaFever feels that this is a service that should be possibly eliminated. Ms. Crete would not like to begin performing pedicures at the senior center and then eliminate them. Ms. Lamas does not feel that the town should eliminate services. There should be a way to streamline and efficiently provide them. Ms. Crete would like to start with a blood pressure clinic at the senior center. Mr. LaFever would like to see what other screening services the department could offer. Mr. LaFever would like to get more information on the number of pedicures that are done in office along with home visits. Ms. Lamas would possibly accept reducing the services offered to meet a specific population of residents. Currently pedicures are being performed by appointment in office. The nurses have just started going to homebound patients for services. Ms. Crete will

compile information as to the number of pedicures being performed and bring back to the board.

Board members discussed ways to provide other health screenings for the public. Ms. Lamas mentioned a possible health fair in conjunction with the schools.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. with Ms. Lamas seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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