The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Kelly Lamas, Member; and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present. Michael LaFever, Chairman was absent. 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 Ms. DeSantis.

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Board members read the minutes of July 27, 2021. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, by phone.

Board members signed departmental bills. While signing the bills, there was question of what Chicopee Rehab & Nursing is. Ms. Kramer told the Board that the office recently went through our inventory and donated a lot of items to there. It is a local nursing home located in Chicopee.

Ms. Kramer provided a COVID update to the Board. The town has seen 56 cases since July 1, 2021. There were 8 cases of the Delta variant. Of the 56 cases, 40 percent of people were vaccinated. These are considered breakthrough cases. Massachusetts Department of Public Health is focusing on spreading the message of "if people do not feel well, to stay home". Ms. Kramer spoke with Kristen Bunten, Ludlow Public Schools Nurse Director. There is talk of having a flu/COVID vaccine clinic in October. Ms. Lamas would like to see a survey created to focus on vaccine hesitancy in the 12-17 year old age group. This survey could be through social media, along with the schools. Ms. Lamas would also like mention of the mask advisory on the next robocall. All the information that Ms. Kramer relays to the Board at the meetings is delivered from MassDPH. MassDPH uses the Massachusetts Immunization Information System to interpret vaccine status.

There is a request from Elisa Nieves, 200 Kendall Street, to house up to 8 chickens on her property. The department received a complaint of a rooster on the property. Since the complaint, the rooster has been rehomed. Ms. Crete does not see any reason to not allow for the chickens. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to allow for up to 8 chickens. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 2-0. A letter will be sent to the homeowner.

Ms. Crete spoke with the Board about the Air Sensor Grant opportunity. Board members feel that it is not pertinent to Ludlow as we are a rural community with very little manufacturing. Ms. Lamas would like to see grant opportunities that are more population health based with more of a focus on the specific needs of Ludlow. This information can be found in the needs assessment provided by the state. Ms. DeSantis feels that the focus should be more on the pandemic. Board members agree to not apply for this grant.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 628 Miller Street, owned by The Estate of Betty Garrow. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for a 2-foot reduction to groundwater from 5ft required to 3ft proposed. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to approve the variance. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 2-0. The plans are still pending Conservation approval.

Ms. Lamas reiterated about creating a 4-5 question survey to focus on vaccine hesitancy. It would be implemented to see what is creating the hesitancy throughout the town. The department can then hopefully investigate ways to help combat the hesitancy.

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Ms. DeSantis spoke of the status of pedicures still being on hold. Ms. Crete stated that pedicures are no longer being performed in office. The nurses are only providing pedicures to the homebound outside of the office.

Ms. Crete mentioned of the open position within the department. Ms. Crete feels there is still a need for a fulltime inspector. The topic will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. with Ms. Lamas seconding the motion. All in favor 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary