The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, August 24, 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 5:34 p.m. by Mr. LaFever.

Board members read the minutes of August 10, 2021. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

Board members signed departmental bills.

Ms. Crete informed the Board of a youth compliance check that was performed recently in town. Due to the results of the compliance check, four businesses were issued a Tobacco Violation Order. There were two 1st violations and two 2nd violations of sales to youths. All violations contain a monetary fine. The 2nd violations also require a 7-day suspension of the Tobacco Sales Permit. The businesses have 7 days to request a hearing in front of the Board.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 SEP 2 P 2:15
LUDLOW, MASS.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, by phone.

Ms. Kramer provided a COVID update to the Board. Since August 8, 2021 there have been 101 positive cases in the town. Of the 101 cases, 20 were vaccinated and are considered breakthrough cases. Most of the cases are between the ages of 18-50 years old, with about 10 cases involving children. Ms. Kramer is having a difficult time with contact tracing. She has seen that many people will not answer the phone.

The department recently ordered 25 doses of the Janssen (J&J) COVID vaccine. Once they are received, it will be advertised for residents to make an appointment to receive the vaccine. Ms. Lamas would like to look into the possibility of ordering the Moderna vaccine. Baystate Health will be providing vaccines at the Festa on September 5, 2021 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Ms. Lamas would like to see a representative from the department attend to help with the vaccines.

There was question of the department ordering the Binax COVID test kits. Ms. Kramer explained that there is a lot involved with using these kits. There is a refrigeration requirement, an extensive training, and then the logistics of providing the tests to the public. Mr. LaFever asked if there is a real need to provide testing. There are many locations throughout the area that do testing.

Ms. Lamas would still like to see a survey created to focus on vaccine hesitancy. This could be developed in collaboration with the schools. The Board also discussed the possibility of holding a regular meeting with Kristen Bunten, Director of Nurses for the Ludlow Public Schools.

Ms. Lamas mentioned about having the department reach out to business owners about the possibility of using signage in the doorways addressing the mask advisory.

There is a request from Krystle Govin, 22 Fuller Street, to house up to 25 chickens & ducks on her property. Ms. Govin did have roosters on the property. The roosters have since been removed. Ms. Crete does not see any reason to not allow for the poultry animals. The landlord did provide permission for the tenants to house the birds. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to allow for up to 25 poultry. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0. A letter will be sent to the homeowner.

Martha Seed, Public Health Program Coordinator, submitted her resignation effective September 2, 2021. Ms. DeSantis asked if there has been any input as to why the quick turnover with the position. Ms. Crete stated Ms. Seed is going back to school and the position was not a good fit for her.

Ms. Crete asked the Board about posting the Public Health Program Coordinator position. Board members went over the job descriptions for both the PHPC and Health Director. Ms. Lamas would like to revise the emergency preparedness responsibilities of the PHPC. The lead requirements are more suited for the Health Director position as the department head. The Health Director should also be the person to attend the emergency preparedness meetings. The PHPC would assist with emergency preparedness. Ms. Crete will make the changes. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to post the position, pending approval of the amendments to the job description. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0. Ms. Crete will email the changes to the Board for approval within the week.

Ms. Lamas would like to see the department develop a 5-year plan. The main objective would be to assess the top 3 health priorities, other than the pandemic, to focus on throughout the town. Ms. DeSantis agrees that there should be a plan in place. The plan would help guide the Board with what direction to take in filling the vacant positions within the department.

The Board of Health will be having a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on September 14, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. to discuss COVID related issues. Ms. DeSantis would like to see a list of questions or a possible presentation prepared for the meeting.

Ms. Crete will have Ms. Kramer reach out to Ms. Bunten to schedule a meeting. Ms. Lamas offered to be the point person from the Board. Board members agreed. Ms. Kramer will copy Ms. Lamas on all communication.

Motion made by Ms. Lamas to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2021 SEP 13 P 2:
TOWN OF LUDLOW