The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Michael LaFever, Chairman and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present. Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary and Kelly Lamas, Member were present by phone. 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 September 14, 2021. Minutes will be signed at the next meeting due to Ms. DeSantis not being physically present.

Mr. LaFever signed departmental bills. The bills will be brought back to a future meeting for the remainder of the Board to sign.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, by phone.

The nurses have begun to distribute flu vaccine to homebound patients. Ms. Kramer spoke of the use of COLOR. It is a new program to track vaccines and billing. The program also works with MIIS to document vaccines. Ms. Kramer has an iPad that was purchased through the fire department to use for this purpose.

Ms. Kramer provided a COVID update to the Board. Between September 1, 2021 and September 24, 2021 there have been 233 positive cases in the town. Of the 233 cases, 108 were vaccinated and are considered breakthrough cases. Most of the breakthrough cases are coming from the Pfizer vaccine. Ms. Kramer has been noticing a downward trend in the number of cases. Currently the town has a 61% vaccination rate.

Ms. Lamas asked for more information on tracking and enforcement if a mask mandate was to be put in place. Ms. Crete spoke more on education. It would be very hard to enforce. Local businesses are not comfortable with approaching customers who do not wear a mask. In the past, there have been numerous confrontations. Some confrontations have led to violence. Ms. Crete mentioned that the staff has just recently started to pass out signage of a mask advisory to local businesses. She would like to give this initiative a little more time to see the response. Ms. Lamas would like to see a mask mandate. There has been an increase in the positivity rate (currently 6%), along with the transmission numbers have been increasing. People are not following the CDC guidance on quarantining. Ms. DeSantis would like to hold off for two weeks to see how the numbers trend. Hopefully the Town will continue to go down. Mr. LaFever is not in agreement for a mask mandate. Ms. DeSantis is not in favor, but feels a mandate would support the mission of the Board of Health. Ms. Lamas gave comparison to other surrounding communities. Other localities instituted a mask mandate with a much lower positivity rate. Board members would not enforce the mandate, but only to provide education when complaints come into the department. Mr. LaFever would like to continue with visiting businesses and follow the advisory.

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Motion made by Ms. Lamas to put a mask mandate in place effective October 4, 2021 for public settings regardless of vaccination status. Conforming to the process that Ms. Crete has put into place in charge of tracking complaints and knowing that it is not going to be penalized and more for education. Ms. DeSantis added to the motion, with reevaluation of the positivity rate and vaccination rate every 2 weeks. Mr. LaFever asked if the mask mandate would be rescinded depending on the data. Ms. Lamas and Ms. DeSantis would base the decision depending on the data. Motion was seconded by Ms. DeSantis. Motion passes 2-1 with Mr. LaFever opposed.

Motion made by Ms. Lamas to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary

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