The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Michael LaFever, Chairman; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; Kelly Lamas, Member and Andrea Crete, Health Agent were present. Angela Kramer, Public Health Nurse and Paulina Matusik, PHPC were also 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 November 9, 2021. Minutes were signed Ms. DeSantis.

Board members signed departmental bills.

Ms. Kramer provided the Board with COVID updates. Ms. Kramer has seen a small uptick in younger kids. In town from 11/1/21 – 11/30/21, there were 182 positive cases. Out of the 182 cases, 74 were vaccinated. Ms. Kramer provided the following breakdown of cases by age for the month of November:

- 1-19 years old – 42 cases
- 20-40 years old – 79 cases
- 41-80 years old – 55 cases
- Over 80 years old – 6 cases

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The department has been receiving a lot of calls asking about COVID booster shots. Ms. Kramer is teaming with Big Y pharmacies to hopefully provide a clinic in December. Ms. Kramer has also created a few short videos on vaccines to be shared with the community. Ms. DeSantis asked if these videos can be running every couple of weeks.

Ms. Kramer has contacted Kristen Bunten, Nurse for the Ludlow Public Schools, to ask if there is a need for other state supplied vaccines. In years past, the Town offered MMR and Tetanus vaccines to students. Ms. Bunten does not feel the need to offer other vaccines right now.

Ms. Lamas asked if there was a date yet for the vaccine clinic. Ms. Kramer is looking at the middle of December.

Board members discussed pedicure services provided by the department. Since June 2021, Ms. Kramer has seen approximately 33-35 patients. Most of these patients are seen every 2-4 months. Ms. Kramer has spoken to Dr. Axton's office. His office is no longer providing pedicures for his patients. When they were providing pedicures, the fee was $45.00 and up. All of his patients that need pedicures are being referred to Valley Podiatry. Ms. Lamas asked Ms. Kramer how she could manage to still provide pedicures to the homebound and possibly at the Senior Center. Ms. Kramer would only do them a couple of days a week. Ms. Crete asked if the 33-35 patients were strictly homebound? Ms. Kramer said that it was based on criteria that the department has set.

Ms. DeSantis asked if there is a possibility of filling the vacant 30-hour part-time nurse position just to provide pedicures. Ms. Lamas would like to see a more efficient process in place, along with possibly performing the pedicures at the Senior Center. Ms. Crete feels that the only way to fill that position would be to increase the salary.

Ms. Kramer states that the only services the department is providing are pedicures and a few B12 injections. The department is no longer providing med prefills, showers, and other personal services.

Ms. Lamas asked if there has been a meeting with the schools about COVID mitigation. Ms. Crete stated that there was a meeting held today.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the CTC stopping contact tracing. It will now be up to each individual town to do their own tracing. Ms. Kramer did say that the process has been streamlined and there is not as many questions to be asked.

Ms. Lamas would like to see Ms. Matusik help with some of the nurse's roles.

Mr. LaFever would like to start with a schedule of pedicures that would be able to meet the needs of the community. Ms. Kramer states that the scheduling would be done by the Senior Center.

Ms. Crete asked about the possibility of increasing the fee for pedicures. Currently the department is charging $20.00. Mr. LaFever would like to wait on the fee increase. He would like to see how everything comes together first. Ms. Lamas is not in favor of increasing the fee. Mr. LaFever would like there to be a set schedule for Ms. Kramer at the Senior Center.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 569 Fuller Street, owned by John Guz. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for the use of a sieve analysis in lieu of a percolation test. Along with a 2-foot reduction to groundwater from 4ft required to 2ft proposed with the use of a Presby system. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variances. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Lamas would like to see Ms. Crete create a department strategy. This would include setting 3 goals for the department. Ms. Lamas would also like to see a few 3-5 year goals outlined for the department. These would be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. with Ms. Lamas seconding the motion. All in favor 2-0.

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Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary