The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Michael LaFever, Chairman; and Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary and Paulina Matusik, PHPC were present. Kelly Lamas, Member joined the meeting remotely. Office Assistant Tim Fontaine recording the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. LaFever.

Board members signed departmental bills.

The meeting was joined by Chrissy Florence, Palmer Health Supervisor. Ms. Florence has been asked by the Board to fill in with inspections and Title 5 work until a new Health Inspector can be hired. Ms. Lamas asked in what capacity Ms. Florence would be willing to work. Ms. Florence is off on Fridays and controls her own schedule during the remainder of the week. Board members discussed a pay schedule for Ms. Florence. Ms. Florence would submit invoices of her time worked to the department. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to hire Ms. Florence temporarily at a rate of $40.00/hour for inspectional work, $75.00 for each septic plan review, $75.00 for each septic final inspection, and $265.00 for witnessing soil testing. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0

Ms. Florence will come in on Friday March 11, 2022 to discuss a list of priorities.

Board members discussed hiring John Kopinsky as a backup Title 5 inspector. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to hire Mr. Kopinsky as a backup inspector for the same rates of pay (as mentioned above). Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, Public Health Nurse.

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Ms. Kramer provided the Board with COVID updates. From 2/1/22 – 2/28/22 there were 184 cases. Ms. Kramer provided the following breakdown for the number of cases:

- <5 years old – 12 cases
- <18 years old – 44 cases
- >18 years old – 128 cases

Of the 184 cases for the month of February, 97 were vaccinated. So far for the month of March there have been only 9 cases.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the latest vaccine clinic that was held at the Ludlow High School. There were 34 vaccines given.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the Fire Department receiving TB testing. An invoice will be sent for the cost of the vaccine.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the department having approximately 45 Covid test kits that will be expiring in May. Ms. Lamas would like to contact the Fire and Police departments to see if they could use the kits.

Ms. Kramer has been working on a Covid testing site in Ludlow. There have been numerous attempts to contact the State with no answer as of yet.

Ms. Kramer asked about the possibility of using some funds out of the nursing donation account to possibly hold an event for the Middle School. Board members would like to see a proposal completed with timeframes and expenses.

Ms. Matusik asked the Board for approval to attend the Mental Health First Aid course. This course would allow for better connections throughout the community. It would allow for Ms. Matusik to instruct and certify people in Adult Mental Health First Aid. Ms. DeSantis feels this matches the goals for the department. There is a possibility of the course being paid through ARPA funding. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to allow Ms. Matusik to attend the Mental Health First Aid course. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

There was a letter received from Kate Blanchard about the possibility of housing 2 pigs on a property she is looking to purchase. According to the Town By-Laws, pigs are not allowed on property under 5 acres. Board members agree to uphold the Town By-laws and not allow for a special permit for pigs on property under 5 acres.

There was a request for a Local Upgrade Approval for 18 Keith Circle, owned by Lisa Roger. Engineer John Kopinsky is asking for the use of a sieve analysis in lieu of a percolation test, a 2-foot reduction to groundwater from 5ft required to 3ft proposed, and a reduction in setback to property line from 10ft required to 6ft proposed. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the variances as requested. Seconded by Ms. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

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Ms. Lamas spoke with Carrie Ribeiro, Human Resources, about updates to the Health Inspector Job Description. This will be placed on the March 22, 2022 meeting agenda.

Ms. Lamas spoke of the SAPHE 2.0 Bill that is in the State House. This Bill would streamline funding and bring more standardization to local health departments.

Motion made by Ms. Lamas to adjourn the meeting at 6:48pm with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary