The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Michael LaFever, Chairman; and Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary and Kelly Lamas, Member were present. Office Assistant Tim Fontaine recording the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. LaFever.

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Board members signed departmental bills.

The meeting was joined by Carrie Ribeiro, Human Resources to discuss changes made to the Health Inspector Job Description. Ms. Ribeiro went over some of the qualifications that have been included in the Job Description. Human Resources performed a survey of surrounding areas to create a pay range suitable to the position. The suggested pay scale would be $55,000 – $70,000 depending on experience. Ms. DeSantis asked of the Health Director Job Description. Ms. Ribeiro stated it would depend on how the Board wanted to move forward. Board members discussed about the removal of inspections from the Health Agent position. The main question is what other responsibilities would be left as a department head. Board members agree that the priority right now is to hire an inspector. The Job Description, if approved, would then be presented to the Selectmen for approval. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to approve the Health Inspector Job Description and to submit it to the Selectmen for approval. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

The meeting was joined by Mike Pietras, Engineering & Land Solutions, to discuss the proposed septic system at the Villa Rose Restaurant located at 1428 Center St. Mr. Pietras discussed the difficulty of placing a system within the property. The Villa Rose has a public water supply and is subject to restrictions. There are also wetlands located close to the proposed area and would need approval from the Conservation Commission. The current system at the Villa Rose was constructed for approximately 625 gallons/day. The proposed F.A.S.T. system is designed to handle 1750 gallons/day. This is what can be used to maintain maximum feasible compliance to Title 5. Mr. Pietras is asking for conceptual approval in order to move forward with the other filings to both the Conservation Commission and to Mass DEP. When the final plans are submitted, there will be 4 items to come before the Board for Local Upgrade Approval. Board members conceptually agree with the plans presented. A letter will be submitted to Mr. Pietras.

The annual nomination of Animal Inspector paperwork has been received. Octavia Anderson is the current Animal Inspector and is willing to continue in that role. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to nominate Octavia Anderson as Animal Inspector for the Town of Ludlow. Seconded by MS. Lamas. All in favor 3-0.

There was an email received from Aaron Houle, 346 Holyoke Street, requesting a special permit to house up to 25 chickens on his property. A complaint was received stating that the birds are free roaming and digging up a neighbor's yard. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to approve the special permit for up to 25 chickens with the understanding that they must be kept on the property. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Board members discussed allowing Angela Kramer to receive Out-of-Grade pay for the period of 2/22/22 – 2/24/22. Board members approved this pay at a prior meeting and are still willing to uphold their approval of the pay.

The meeting was joined by Angela Kramer, RN.

Ms. Kramer provided the Board with the most current Covid updates. From 3/1/22 – 3/22/22, there have been 31 positive cases throughout the town. Due to the low number of current cases, many agencies are reducing the number of meetings that are being held. There is the threat of a new variant, but it is only recommended to keep a close eye on the number of cases. Ms. Kramer spoke of the current high immunity rate caused by the January and February surge.

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Ms. Kramer spoke of the number of Hepatitis C cases in the town. The number of cases from the jail have been included in counts. Ms. DeSantis asked what percent of cases are in the jail population compared to the town. Ms. Lamas would like to see a breakdown for all infectious diseases including STI's for the town. Ms. Kramer will provide this information at an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Kramer spoke of the possibility of receiving (2) Opioid Overdose Rescue Kits from Tapestry Health. These would be given to the Town for free. Ms. Kramer has contacted the police department along with the Gandara Center for possible placement of these kits. Ms. Lamas inquired about the possibility of Narcan distribution within the department.

Ms. Kramer informed the Board of her volunteering to join the Patient Advisory Committee at Baystate Wing Hospital.

Ms. Kramer discussed the possibility of working with the Fire Department to offer blood pressure clinics at the Senior Center. Ms. Lamas would like Ms. Kramer to work with the Health Coordinator to provide education to patients during these clinics. Board members would like to see a full proposal from Ms. Kramer before approval.

Ms. Lamas spoke of rescinding the Ludlow Mask Advisory. Board members are not in agreement and would like to keep the Advisory in place.

Ms. Lamas will be meeting with staff to discuss a transition plan. The goal is to meet with all members individually and then hold a team meeting to discuss policies and procedures.

Ms. DeSantis spoke of the goals of the department along with the Health Director position. These will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

Board members read the minutes of March 8, 2022. Motion made by Ms. Lamas to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

Motion made by Ms. Lamas to adjourn the meeting at 7:02pm with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary