The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Kelly Lamas, Chair; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary; and Antonio Tavares, Member were present. Office Assistant Tim Fontaine recording the minutes. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ms. Lamas.

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Board members signed departmental bills.

There was a request received from Nick Linna, 28 Pleasant Street, for a special permit to house up to 16 chickens on his property. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the special permit for up to 16 chickens. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0. A letter will be sent to the homeowner.

Board members read the minutes of April 12, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Tavares to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0. Minutes were signed by Ms. DeSantis.

Ms. Lamas discussed promoting Paulina Matusik to department head. This would be an interim position with an increase in pay. Mr. Tavares asked how long Ms. Matusik has been working for the department. Ms. Lamas states 6 months. Mr. Tavares asked why not promote the office assistant that has been working in the department for 15 years to department head? Ms. Lamas states that there is a certain level of knowledge and expertise that comes with having an MPH. Ms. DeSantis asked if the office assistant has ever managed a group of people. Ms. DeSantis feels that interim means a patchwork plan until a final plan is put in place. This topic will be tabled to the meeting on June 1, 2022. Ms. Lamas would like to have the other board members have a conversation with Human Resources prior to the next meeting.

There was a request made by Angela Kramer, RN to utilize the nursing donation account to fund a youth event at Baird Middle School. At the Board meeting of March 8th, Ms. Kramer was asked to create a proposal to present to the Board. There has not been a proposal presented to date. The total cost of the event is approximately $3000.00. Board members discussed different ways to donate funds. Motion made by Ms. DeSantis to donate $1000.00 to purchase t-shirts and an additional $500.00 as a donation to purchase physical education supplies. Ms. Lamas would like to donate $500.00 for the t-shirts and $500.00 for the equipment. Ms. DeSantis amended her motion to $500.00 for the t-shirts and $500.00 for the physical education equipment. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

Moving forward, Board members would like ideas presented for approval with background information provided.

Ms. Kramer has requested reimbursement for a poster that was presented at the MAPHN annual conference. Ms. DeSantis would like to see Ms. Kramer contact the Register to submit her poster. Motion made by Mr. Tavares to approve the reimbursement for the poster. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Lamas spoke of a youth representative from the high school joining the board meetings. This would be a school year commitment. Hopefully this student will join the meetings in September.

While reading through the staff reports, Ms. Kramer would like to become a certified CPR instructor. Board members have not received any information on this topic. Ms. Matusik is currently trained as a CPR instructor for the department. Ms. DeSantis does not feel this is an ideal time to have Ms. Kramer trained. If the department was fully staffed, it would be wonderful to have 2 people trained as a CPR instructor. Ms. DeSantis would like to keep the Nurse for nursing duties. There was discussion about possibly having the office assistant become a certified instructor. This will be researched and brought to a future meeting for discussion.

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Tavares about hiring a per diem nurse for the department. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Current Covid case data:

From 5/1 – 5/17, there is currently 282 cases. Most patients are showing mild symptoms.

Board members agreed to the next meetings being held June 1 & June 15, 2022.

Motion made by Mr. Tavares to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm with Ms. DeSantis seconding the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis
Secretary