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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

Members Present: Kelly Lamas, Chair; Antonio Tavares, Member; Adrienne DeSantis, Secretary via phone.

Also Present: Paulina Matusik

Meeting was called to order at 5:17 PM by Ms. Lamas and Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Monthly Business:

None

Visitations:

Mike Pietras met with the Board to discuss the Septic system at Villa Rose. At this time Mr. Tavares step out of the meeting. Mr. Pietras discussed that while there were some changes made to the original plan, he will be asking for the same variances. He reviewed the technology behind the new plan discussing the benefits of what he is proposing and the cost savings that goes with the new system. He explained how it is much larger than the current system (5600 sq feet vs the current 500 sq feet). When asked if it will impact the parking available, he reported that the parking will stay the same as the parking lot requirements have been met. He also explained that there are 2 pumps with this new system that will alternate therefore always having a back-up should 1 fail. Mr. Pietras reports that Chrissy Florence has reviewed the plans and that he is confident that it will work. He is requesting that the Board approves this in concept only which allow Ms. Florence to make any needed changes. Ms. Lamas made a motion to approve the septic system at Villa Rose in concept based on technical review. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. Vote 2-0.

Mr. Tavares returned to the meeting at this time.

Angela Kramer met with the Board of Health members to discuss Public Health Nursing. She presented them with an overview of what she does and what she'd like to see done moving forward. Over the past few years, she has taken on more responsibilities and would like to see the Town doing more. She discussed the number of trainings that she has attended, including just recently becoming a Tai Chi Instructor. She also serves on several committees as well as a Patient Advisory Board through Baystate Wing Hospital. She discussed her collaborations with doctors and Big Y to make immunizations available to the residents. She has been working with Debbie Johnson over at the Senior Center assisting residents who require medical assistance. She would love to have more flu clinics and provide more services for the residents of Ludlow, but can't do it on her own. Mr. Tavares asks Ms. Kramer what she would like to see from the Board and she responded that she would like to see more nursing autonomy as there was in the past. Ms. Lamas explained that the Board of Health isn't what it used to be and that the Town is

trying to move forward in meeting the requirements set forth by the State. All board members do feel that the department could use another nurse in the future to assist with all the things Ms. Kramer discussed but feel that things need to be looked at more closely. The board members also discussed providing feedback to Ms. Matusik who will put the information together to assist in goal setting.

Actions/Correspondence:

There was a request from Kim Batista (Town Clerk) on increasing the burial pay that she receives from the Board of Health. Ms. Lamas read a letter from Ms. Batista in which she outlined that she receives a $40.69 stipend twice yearly in June and December. Ms. Batista feels that the amount should be increased for the work she does. Ms. Matusik informed the Board that she called several towns in the area and that no other town pays a yearly stipend for the work. They all say that it is part of the Clerk's salary. Ms. Lamas asked that further investigation is done into what the requirement of the Town is in terms of paying for this service. Ms. Matusik will discuss this with the Town Administrator. The vote is being tabled at this time until the next meeting awaiting further information.

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Other Discussion:

Ms. Matusik provided a progress report of the inspections done by Tim Fontaine. Mr. Fontaine started doing inspections in November and has completed 22 Food Inspections, 14 complaints (which included housing, tenant and rat issues), 2 pre-op inspections for new businesses and 1 follow up inspection. He has also taken and passed the SI exam and will be taking the SE exam in the spring.

Ms. Lamas let everyone know that she spoke with Carrie Ribeiro before the meeting. She was informed that Ms. Ribeiro had submitted to the Latoss Union the request to reclassify the Administrative Assistant position of the department and that she received an unfavorable response from the attorney. Ms. Ribeiro will speak with Town Council about the next steps and will provide feedback as soon as she hears something.

The next meeting will be on February 15, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Ms. DeSantis to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis

Secretary