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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2023

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

Also Present: Paulina Matusik

Meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM by Ms. Lamas and Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Monthly Business:

Board signed minutes from 11/3/2022 meeting.

Visitations:

Chrissy Florence, Health Department Supervisor in Palmer, was in today to provide the board an update on the Public Health Excellence Grant. Palmer is the fiscal agent for the Public Health Excellence Grant which shares services between Palmer, Ludlow, Warren and West Brookfield. The first payment of $147,000 finally came in December. Ms. Florence explained that she wrote the Intermunicipal Agreement and reported that 2 jobs have been posted since the money has been received. The first one is for a regional epidemiologist which is part time. The second one is for a regional health inspector which is full time travelling amongst the 4 communities. She also reported that she met with the inspector software company to inquire about pricing for tablets and licensing. Each town will be required to get their own tablet/licenses, as well as the coalition. It is estimated to be $41,000 total for all 4 towns and the coalition to purchase the licensing through 2025. Ms. Florence also let the board know that each town needs to appoint a member to the Regional Advisory Board which will meet quarterly via Zoom. Ms. DeSantis made a motion to appoint Ms. Lamas the contact for the Regional Advisory Board, which was seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 2-0.

Actions/Correspondence:

The board continued their discussion from the previous meeting regarding burial pay increase for the Town Clerk. Ms. Matusik reported to the board that she spoke with the Town Administrator who in turn spoke with Town Council. There is no Mass General Law that states where the reimbursement should come from but rather leaves it to the discretion of the municipality. Ms. Matusik spoke with Ms. Ribeiro in Human Resources and was informed that the job description would reflect the burial work. Ms. Matusik also reports that after their last meeting Ms. Batista just wanted to leave the pay as is. She does not wish to pursue this further. Mr. Tavares made a motion to keep the burial pay rate as it is currently. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Discussion was held on permit requirements for waste tire transportation/hauler. There are currently no specific permits/by-laws in place for hauling of scrap tires. American Tires

Distributers Inc. would like to collect scrap tires from their customers and haul then on the same truck that they used for deliveries. They would not be collecting tires from the general public. Ms. Lamas feels that this discussion should be tabled at this time so that further research can be done and a new form can be created. Ms. Matusik states that she will work on a new form with Tim Fontaine and present it to the board at a later date.

Discussion was held on updating the article for Town Meeting changing the name of the CPR Revolving Fund as we offer many more trainings. The fund is for supplies needed for the trainings. Motion was made by Ms. DeSantis to approve the proposed article for Town Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Tavares. All in favor 3-0. Ms. Matusik stated that the name change would also have to be approved. Motion was made by Mr. Tavares to change the name of the fund to Health Department Trainings Fund. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Ms. Matusik reports that she was informed that the Board of Selectmen want to eliminate the Public Health Coordinator position to fund the Public Health Director position. Ms. Lamas feels that she would like to see the coordinator position be unfunded rather than eliminated, keeping it under the classification of the Board of Health. There was discussion amongst the board members on how they see the structure of the Board of Health. Mr. Tavares feels that the coordinator and director positions could be combined and that the department needs a second nurse. Ms. DeSantis and Ms. Lamas both feel that the coordinator position is very important and would like to see it funded with the second nursing position salary. It would allow for a nurse to be hired and provided not only nursing work but coordinator work as well. Ms. Matusik informed the Board that the Town Administrator recommended that the Board write a letter to the Board of Selectmen letting them know how they feel about un-funding vs elimination of the coordinator position. A letter will be written by Ms. Matusik stating the Board of Health does not want to see any positions eliminated. Mr. Tavares is not in favor of this so the letter will be from Ms. Lamas and Ms. DeSantis only.

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Other Discussion:

Ms. Matusik informed all members that they need to complete the State Ethics Conflict of Interest test and acknowledgment by the end of the month.

The next meetings will be on March 9, 2023 at 4:30 PM and March 28, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Tavares to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 PM. Seconded by Ms. DeSantis. All in favor 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne DeSantis

Secretary