

Ashland Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2021
Zoom/Online Joint meeting of the Board of Health and Select Board

Diane Mortensen, Chair
Ronald Etskovitz, Member

Chris Daniele, Vice Chair
Koduvayur Narayana, Member

Members Present Via Zoom Meeting:

Diane Mortensen, Ron Etskovitz and Koduvayur Narayana

Members Absent:

Chris Daniele

Board of Health Joint Appointment

Yolanda explained that the Select Board and Board of Health will participate in the joint appointment of a new Board of Health member.

Diane Mortensen called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:45 pm. Present at the meeting was Diane Mortensen, K. G. Narayana, and Ron Etskovitz.

Ann Carey has been a resident for 30 years and is a nurse. She just received her doctorate and felt with that behind her she would like to give back to the town.

Barbra Sekesogundu Simon explained that when she found there was an opening on the Board of Health, she became interested and felt with her nursing background she would be a good fit.

Brandi thanked both candidates for expressing an interest in serving. Additionally, Brandi wanted to know if either candidates would be willing to run for the seat in May.

Barbra felt that filling a role would allow to see how everything works but would be interested in serving beyond that. Anne also explained that she would like to continue in the role beyond the appointment.

Joe asked what each candidate considers the most pressing issues facing the board. Barbra mentioned that one of the meetings she attended was dealing with retailers that sold cigarettes to minors and she felt it is important to keep the children in the community safe. Ann felt that the pandemic is such a big issue, but she would like to be sure the town is looking at ways to get the vaccines rolled out to residents. Additionally, Joe wanted to be sure that both understand Nyanza hazardous waste site and the challenges it has created.

Rob asked the candidates about their experience with the COVID pandemic. Ann felt that vaccinations should be handled at the local level, therefore the town should be preparing to deal with refrigeration and the rollout plan. Barbra agreed that the vaccine is a priority but felt we have an advantage because of the number of pharmacies nearby. She felt that partnering with others would help to cut down on any waste of the vaccine.

Diane thanked both candidates and encouraged them to consider serving on the Medical Reserve Corp.

KG reminded the candidates that even if they are not appointed, they should consider running for an open seat in May.

Ron encouraged both candidates to run for a seat in May because they are both great candidates.

Yolanda asked the members of the Board of Health if they wanted to recommend one of the candidates over the other.

KG made a recommendation to have Barbra fill the interim Board of Health position until the election on May 18, 2021. This nomination was seconded by Diane, with a vote of Kinsman-aye, Magnani-aye, Mitchell-aye, Scherer-no, Greaves-aye, Mortensen-aye, Etskovitz-no, Narayana-aye; 6-2-0.

Adjournment

Joe made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. This motion was seconded by Ron, with a vote of Mortensen-aye, Etskovitz-aye, Narayana-aye; 3-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 8:08 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 1/20/2021 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Talent Bank forms and resumes of Candidates Ann Carey and Barbara Sekesogundu Simon
2. A recording of the meeting can be found on WACA-TV