

Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA
Meeting Room B/C

Jon Fetherston, Chairman
Diane Mortensen, Vice Chairperson
Mark Oram, Agent/Director

Chris Daniele, Clerk
Ronald Etskovitz, Member
Koduvayur Narayana, Member

Members Present:

Jon Fetherston, Diane Mortensen and Ronald Etskovitz

Members Absent:

Chris Daniele, Koduvayur Narayana

Others Present:

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary
Nancy Cleary, Public Health Nurse
Lisa Uglialoro, Human Resources Director
Mark Dassoni, Resident

Call to Order

Mr. Fetherston called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM and noted the meeting was being audio recorded.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni, resident, said he hopes that tonight's meeting is productive and quick.

Continue discussion on FY 20 Budget including proposed Public Health Nurse Position

Mr. Oram thanked Mr. Etskovitz for providing the format of the spreadsheet and noted that he and Nancy Cleary worked together on compiling the information.

Board Members thanked Human Resources Director, Lisa Uglialoro, for coming to tonight's meeting. Ms. Mortensen explained to Ms. Uglialoro that the Public Health Nurse currently works five hours per week; the Board will be requesting this be added as a full-time position at a cost of \$60,000.

Ms. Uglialoro noted that she does not get involved in budget issues but is under the impression that the position is not in the FY20 Budget, however, this leaves time to work on preparing a strong case. Ms. Uglialoro noted that each of these Job Activities in the spreadsheet need to be looked at and expanded upon; she agreed there is a strong justification for the position.

Ms. Mortensen noted that the budget proposal has been submitted, the next step is presenting the request to FinCom. Mr. Fetherston noted that the Town has grown and there are many new challenges, however, the Department has not grown to keep up with the changes. The Board discussed possibly moving responsibilities around or reallocating positions. Ms. Uglialoro noted the Job Activities spreadsheet is a great start and suggested inviting Kristen French and Jennifer Wuelfing to a meeting to go over what they

do and what projects they've been up to; Ms. Uglialoro agreed that she could participate in this meeting. Ms. Uglialoro noted there is an open position for an Outreach Worker, and as a health-related position, could be looked at.

Ms. Uglialoro noted that the Total Number of Hours shown under Future Job Activities is good, but they should show how you came up with these numbers. Ms. Mortensen noted that to go before FinCom, the information will need to be in the form of a report, contained in a binder with tabs for each Activity.

Mr. Oram noted that the Public Health Nurse's office should be located at the Community Center, where the Nurse could work with elderly, get to know the community, do home visits, medicine adherence and safety in the home; the elderly population is increasing and we need to be ready.

Ms. Cleary discussed the number of reportable diseases that the Public Health Nurse needs to review and report to the State on; she discussed the Measles outbreak in Washington and noted that many parents are neglecting to vaccinate their children.

Ms. Uglialoro noted she is here to help the Board through this process and can be the middle person. Ms. Uglialoro left the meeting at this time (7:40 PM).

Mr. Fetherston noted he does not think we will get a position this year, but the Board should continue to work on painting the picture to show the need.

Ms. Cleary discussed wanting to include flu and school vaccination clinics and TB testing into the list of Job Activities; Mr. Fetherston and Ms. Mortensen noted that vaccines are not a top priority and believe there are other resources available for children to receive vaccinations. Ms. Cleary disagreed and noted there are 23 foreign born students in the schools now, and believes it is important for students from high risk countries to be tested for TB. Ms. Cleary said Ashland students were vaccinated in Framingham but Framingham will not take any more students nor will they make an agreement with Ashland. Ms. Mortensen noted that maybe they should speak to the Mayor.

Mr. Fetherston wrote out the format for the binders on the whiteboard, Mr. Oram will work with Ms. Cleary to create binders which will include an explanation of each of the 27 Activities, facts and time, concerns, documentation, including surrounding towns' data as well as data from five years ago, current, and, five years from now.

Ms. Mortensen suggested that when the binders are complete, Mr. Oram review the binders with Jennifer W. and Kristen F. to ensure there is no overlap in services, and see what Job Activities they may be able to pick up.

Ms. Mortensen inquired, and Mr. Oram responded, that what is currently lacking in the area of Public Health Nursing, other than a vaccination program, is: elderly programs, medical adherence, slip prevention and blood pressure clinics, Ms. Cleary has not been able to do these activities due to lack of budgeted hours.

Ms. Mortensen suggested that Mr. Oram get the final okay from the Town Manager for the additional hours the Food Inspector has taken on. Mr. Oram would like to look at establishing and increasing fees to create a revolving fund for an Assistant Health Agent.

The discussion continued regarding a vaccination program, and where this should fall as a priority. Ms. Cleary is very concerned about TB in children, and reiterated that Framingham does not have the resources to take Ashland students any longer, as of October. Ms. Mortensen stated that, through our resources, no child that needs a vaccine will go unvaccinated, and noted that she recently referred a child to CVS who did not want to wait two weeks for a clinic appointment. Ms. Cleary noted that children should not have to miss school; she believes that people coming into the country do not have money for vaccines and cannot get an appointment due to the influx at the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Etskovitz discussed the flu clinic in Framingham that was well attended; Mr. Oram noted people tend to go together as families.

Ms. Mortensen suggested speaking to Audrey Lacroix, Ashland High School Nurse; if the Board of Health/Public Health Nurse needs to provide their students with services, we need them on our side to support this request for the nursing position. Also for elder services, to speak with Joanne Duffy; there may be ways the Board could be creative with financing.

Mr. Oram noted that Ms. Cleary is not fighting for the position for herself, she would not be able to take on the position; the Board noted they appreciate her passion.

Discuss Future Agenda Topics and Meeting Dates

Mr. Oram noted he will put on the next agenda: Narcan policies in the schools, preliminary plans for Village of Americas VIII and Villages at Clocktown. The Board agreed to include the signing of the Tobacco Regulations. Ms. Mortensen noted that she found the number of Ashland students between the ages of 12-17 that are using e-cigarettes is approximately 250; vendors she spoke to believe older siblings/parents may be the ones buying for them. Mr. Oram discussed getting the children onto a nicotine patch.

Adjournment

Ms. Mortensen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 1/29/2019 MEETING
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. Job Activities Spreadsheet - 1/1/2018 – 12/31/2018
2. Audio Recording of the meeting is available