

Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.  
Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

*Ronald Etskovitz, Vice Chairman*  
*Koduvayur Narayana, Clerk*  
*Mark Oram, Agent/Director*

*Jon A. Fetherston, Member*  
*Judith Margulies, Member*

**Members Present:**

Ronald Etskovitz, Koduvayur Narayana and Jon Fetherston

**Members Absent:**

Judith Margulies

**Others Present:**

Mark Oram, Health Agent/Director  
Laura Clifford, Administrative Secretary  
Mark Dassoni, Resident  
Jennifer L. Flanagan, Cannabis Control Commission  
Alison Bosma, Metrowest Daily News

**Call to Order**

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and noted that the meeting was being video and audio recorded.

Mr. Narayana asked all in attendance to take a moment of silence for the victims of the tragedy in Florida.

Mr. Narayana made a motion that the Vice Chairman send a letter to the Superintendent of that school, to express our condolences, on behalf of the Ashland Board of Health. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

**Citizen Participation**

Mark Dassoni spoke to the Board regarding the joint meeting taking place tomorrow night with the Board of Selectmen to fill the vacancy on the Board of Health. Mr. Fetherston discussed the process for appointing a new Member to the Board.

**Recreational Marijuana Recommendations presented by Cannabis Control Commissioner Jennifer Flanagan**

Mr. Etskovitz thanked Mr. Fetherston for coordinating the attendance of the guest speaker tonight, Jennifer Flanagan, of the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). Mr. Fetherston introduced Commissioner Flanagan and hopes that we can obtain some good advice to work off of going forward.

Commissioner Flanagan informed the Board that ten hearings have been completed throughout the State, public comment on the draft regulations is now closed and that information is being compiled and categorized. There will be three public meetings to discuss the final regulations. Commissioner Flanagan explained there are five Commissioners who have been working openly and transparently to get things accomplished, covering many areas of the State on the many controversial issues.

Commissioner Flanagan explained to the Board her mental health background and said she draws from this perspective, and added that she looks strongly at the 47% of people who did not want this legalized and how to do this responsibly.

Commissioner Flanagan stated that data regarding marijuana-related crime is taken into account, Mr. Narayana would like to see this information. Commissioner Flanagan discussed the security measures the Commission will be taking to prevent diversion of the product. Commissioner Flanagan noted that this is still a federally illegal substance, the product cannot be transported over state lines and businesses must be handled in all cash. Any manufacturer of edibles must come before the Commission, edibles will include a universal symbol to show it is a THC product, as well as warning labels. Commissioner Flanagan discussed other states that have legalized marijuana, and noted that she would like Massachusetts to improve on areas where those states made mistakes, such as lower potency levels in edibles, and running awareness campaigns early on.

Commissioner Flanagan stated that one ounce is the legal limit allowed to possess. Mr. Fetherston noted that he is glad to hear that there will be substantial testing, but expressed concern if products are tampered with; Commissioner Flanagan responded that they are taking great strides to prevent diversion, packaging will be sealed, and edibles will have childproof packaging. Commissioner Flanagan discussed restaurants infusing THC into food, as well as private cannabis consumption clubs. Private clubs do not fall under the CCC guidelines due to a loophole. There are many advertising restrictions, there can be no flashing signs or marijuana leaf symbols.

Commissioner Flanagan noted there is no federally funded research being done because it is federally illegal but added that there are many prevention studies which have concluded that human brain development is not fully reached until age 25 and this is the age we should be looking at, not 21.

Commissioner Flanagan noted that they have no idea how many license applications they will receive. The question of whether a licensed medical marijuana supplier can transfer to an adult use distributor will need to be looked at by local Town Counsels. Commissioner Flanagan explained that DPH will be absorbed of their oversight on medical marijuana; as of December 31, 2018 it will fall under the CCC. Commissioner Flanagan explained the residency requirements for cannabis vendors, Massachusetts residents will receive priority in licensing.

Mr. Fetherston made a motion that the Board send a letter to the Senate President and Speaker to release the funds early for educational purposes. Commissioner Flanagan responded that many legislators are receptive to this, but there is a time crunch with a lot of activity. Mr. Narayana said to change the motion to 'the Chair will send a letter', and seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

The Board Members thanked Commissioner Flanagan for her time and coming to the meeting.

Mr. Narayana made a motion for a five minute recess. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

The Board recessed at 8:35 PM.

Mr. Etskovitz called the meeting back into session at 8:45 PM.

**Finalize Assistant Health Agent/Part-Time Food Inspector presentation to Financial Committee**

Mr. Etskovitz informed the Board that he did not have a chance to reach out to the Finance Committee Chair to discuss attending an upcoming FinCom meeting, FinCom's next meeting is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussion continued regarding contacting FinCom and possibly attending a meeting.

Mr. Oram stated that the food revolving fund may be utilized for the food program needs and believes those needs are being addressed; he feels the need is for a full time Assistant. Mr. Narayana made a motion that Mr. Etskovitz would send the budget information to the Finance Committee. Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0. Mr. Oram inquired if this correspondence to FinCom will include the entire budget request or just the request for the two additional positions. Mr. Narayana responded that this is in addition to the rest of the budget items. Mr. Narayana mentioned he would also like to see funding

for education included in the budget, Mr. Narayana asked that Mr. Oram look at requesting \$2,000 for education and \$2,000 for outside experts in the Board of Health budget.

### **Update on communication sent from Vice Chair regarding Connolly Bus**

Mr. Etskovitz said a letter was sent to the Chairs of Boards whose purview might be under the auspices of the Connolly Bus situation to discuss it. He received two replies that because of some pending issues they did not feel it was appropriate for us to meet as a group; Mr. Etskovitz suggested this Board deal with what is under its purview. Mr. Narayana suggested that we can go to their meetings and express our concerns, or send concerns before they approve their paperwork. Mr. Oram noted that he went out and spoke to a supervisor who fixed the dumpster issue immediately. Mr. Oram also said he heard they are going to start work on the fence once school is out, and noted that the gas issue was fixed that night due to an email sent by Jon. Mr. Fetherston believes it is important to hear residents' concerns. Mr. Narayana would like to see copies of emission testing and is concerned when there are many buses running at once. Mr. Oram said this may need to go through legal counsel or may be obtained through the State. Mr. Fetherston said it is important that they call police for any noise complaints so that it is documented.

### **Health Agent /Director's Report Budget Update, FY 18 and FY 19**

Mr. Oram reported that the budget is currently below where we should be, and added we are holding off on paying contractual services for the Landfill until the contract is finalized.

### **Cadillac Paint, status of demolition**

Mr. Oram explained that he was in a conference call this morning with the demolition contractors for Cadillac Paint; they discussed the disconnection of any utility wires, abandonment of the septic system, appropriate permitting from DEP, disposal of the waste, and ensuring a chain of command during the disposal process; this is expected to happen in mid-March.

### **Landfill, recent report on routine gas testing**

The February testing report shows no concentrations of methane during this reporting period.

### **Town Meeting schedule, spring 2018**

Mr. Oram noted the deadlines are shown on the warrant schedule and stated the warrant is open.

Mr. Narayana inquired about a Wellness Committee through the schools; Mr. Narayana would like to know if they address mental health, and if there is any school safety preparedness training. Mr. Narayana would like to have this on a future agenda, Mr. Fetherston agreed this is a conversation we must have.

### **BAA grant for sharps, requested Feb 13, 2018**

Mr. Oram noted he applied on February 13<sup>th</sup> for the BAA grant, this was originally started by Mary Mortensen, this will be our third year. We can purchase sharps containers for \$2.00-\$2.40. Next year we will need to renew our agreement with Waste Management.

### **Review Board of Health role in filling vacancies on Dementia Friendly Community and Storm Water Committees**

Mr. Oram said in regards to the Storm Water Committee position, the Conservation Agent has said she is working with management on this and does not have a response yet. Mr. Etskovitz reminded the Board that Mr. Narayana had volunteered for the position as liaison for the Dementia Friendly Community. Mr. Fetherston made a motion that we appoint KG to fill Mary's position on the Dementia Friendly Community. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0. The Board thanked Mr. Narayana for stepping up.

### **Consideration of Minutes (February 6, 2018)**

Mr. Narayana asked that the number of food inspections average be changed to "State" average; Mr. Oram explained that the number was low in 2016 due to the lapse in having a food inspector, and to add "in 2016".

Mr. Narayana made a correction on page 3, under Marijuana regulations, take out the word “to” and change to say trash “around” the dumpster. Mr. Narayana mentioned the email received by Steve Morgan who had suggested a change to the minutes based on his opinion that the minutes contained inaccuracies. Mr. Fetherston made a motion to approve the minutes with KG’s suggested revisions. Mr. Etskovitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

**Discuss, future meeting dates and agenda items**

Mr. Fetherston stated that he received a call from Doug Small, DPW Director. Mr. Fetherston said there are people in Town who are anti-fluoride, our second source of water from MWRA contains fluoride. Mr. Small would like to come to the Board and we need to give it our blessing or denial, and it will go to Town Meeting. Mr. Oram noted that DPW should pass it by legal, there is a lot of resistance; it is a sensitive issue and there are watch groups. Mr. Fetherston said we should have the conversation.

The Board discussed other additional agenda items: January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, mental health issues in the school and if there is a Wellness Committee. Mr. Fetherston stated that the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the presentation of the Mary Mortensen Public Health Award; Mr. Oram will check on Ed Hart’s availability. Mr. Narayana asked if there are statistics regarding the number of Narcan uses in Town by Police and Fire. Mr. Oram stated that there will be a press release coming soon on the distribution of Narcan; that the Board of Health will be involved in this. Mr. Fetherston suggested asking Sergeant Ed Burman and someone from the Fire Department to come and update the Board on the statistics of Narcan uses. Mr. Fetherston asked Mr. Oram to give Sergeant Burman a call.

Mr. Fetherston mentioned that Sam Wong, Framingham Board of Health Director, is drafting a template for guidelines for marijuana; Mr. Fetherston asked Mr. Oram if he could reach out to Mr. Wong for a copy of the draft guidelines. Mr. Fetherston said this should continue to be a topic of every one of our meetings. Mr. Oram mentioned the seminar hosted by Cheryl Sbarra on adult use marijuana, which will also be available as a webcast. Mr. Narayana noted a correction to the Agenda regarding number 9, the meeting minutes date.

Mark Dassoni asked if there is any new data related to the flu epidemic. Mr. Oram said it has not decreased and universal precautions should be taken; Mr. Oram said this information is collected by DPH. Mr. Dassoni asked if there could be an agenda item on Town Health/Wellness, the Board discussed the accuracy and generality of this information, that information is always evolving. Mr. Fetherston noted that Mr. Dassoni brings up a good point.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Narayana made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Fetherston seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

ASHLAND BOARD OF HEALTH  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT THE 2/20/2018 MEETING  
(All items stored in the Board of Health files unless otherwise noted)

1. FY18 Year to Date Budget Report
2. February 2018 ATC Monthly Landfill Report
3. May Town Meeting Schedule
4. BAA Grant Application
5. February 6, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes
6. Audio Recording of the meeting is available