**Board of Health**

**Virtual Meeting**

**December 13, 2023**

**7:00 PM** Virtual meeting called to order by Mena Mesiha. Roll call vote: Hope Klassman –Aye;

Chuck Levine- Aye; Signe Peterson Flieger- Aye; Hillary Johnson- Aye; Mena Mesiha – Aye.

Others Present – Staff: Leandra McLean, Linda Callan, Kevin Davis. Others present, Susan Saunders

**Town project updates –** Kevin Davis (Memo on File in Office)

**40B Edgehill Road – 40 B Development**

* No new development regarding this project.
* The applicant is planning to meet this month (December) with the ZBA.

**Cape Club of Sharon**

* Condo development entering Phase 3 of its design plan.
* Treatment facility at the site has been approved by DEP (groundwater discharge permit).
* The size of this treatment system falls under review by DEP.
* Davis will work with DEP as requested

**Birch Hill Subdivision**

* Clearing continues with Lot 5
* Some neighbors are concerned with noise, but nothing outside of what is allowed with construction.
* Davis is still waiting for a formal submission for septic design of the lots.

**Sharon Gallery**

* Signalization project continues.
* Paving has been completed.
* DPW is waiting for a redesign of a new wall which is close to the cemetery to prevent damage to the old stone walls.
* Sewer line is in, but will not become active for quite a while.

**Cumberland Farms**

* Davis spoke with Todd today regarding I/A
* Cumberland Farms will be uploading its I/A information into the online tracking site (Barnstable County).
* Cumberland Farms will wait until Spring to upgrade the septic system to meet their ongoing capacity issues.
* Davis continues to inspect the bathrooms for sanitation and compliance.

**303 n. Main Street Apartments.**

* Nothing is happening at this time

**FY 24 Budgett Update/Review of Budget for FY 25 – CALLAN**

This fiscal year’s budget is on target. No large or unexpected expenditures except for the Fixed and Uncontrollable accounts. This past spring the Town’s residential trash and dumpster contract was renewed. Town stayed with Republic Services. A 25% increase in dumpster services was estimated and included in the proposed budget. However, the dumpster line item

was not increased, and the expectation is that the Health Department will be asking for a transfer to cover the cost of dumpster services expected to be about $107,000 (up from $80,000). The subsidized trash account should be set without a needed transfer of cash as funding for this account was not at capacity. The Special Services account should also be OK.

Though the Health Department manages the fixed and uncontrollable accounts, they are not part of the Health Department budget. The Health Department is responsible for managing the funds. Looking into FY25, the Health Department will again ask for an increase in all three funds. The increase in expenses for residential trash removal and dumpster service increased about 33%. Callan is working with Curly from the DPW to determine potential costs for the Special Services Account (drug testing of DPW personnel).

Changes to the FY25 Health Department budget include the following:

* $6,000 increase in funding for Viewpoint (this was asked for last year but was not included in the Health Department budget.
* $800 increase in Lake testing. Per BOH vote, the lakes swimming areas are tested two weeks prior to the Lake officially opening on Memorial Day and throughout the month of November.
* Potential minimal decrease in telephone service (switch current plan)
* Potential decrease in Inspectional Services (possible grant opportunity in collaboration with partnership with Bristol Norfolk.

A final budget will be submitted to the Board for review in January.

**Update on new residents to Sharon-MCLEAN**

There are still 15 families residing at Econo Lodge.

The State is reviewing their polices on who qualifies for this program, and we have been informed that there are two families who don’t qualify for this program but qualify for another program. On Tuesday, December 19, the families will be transferred to Best Western across the street. Econo Lodge will be closing as a State site.

The Sharon Health Department held a Flu and Covid clinic on November 17 at Econo Lodge, which was well received. (about half of families participated). A couple of blood pressure clinics were also held and will continue.

Best Western has 90 rooms booked through 12/31/24. The town has been informed that all these rooms will be filled and are to be used as a transitional and stabilization station for families. The Best Western will not be a State supported shelter. The National Guard will remain.

The Town and the task force will continue to work to provide services for all existing and future families. Some benefits of families being housed at the Best Western include:

* Availability of laundry services
* Meal service: meals will be prepared at Dedham Best Western and brought to Sharon (lunch and dinner). A continental breakfast will be provided.
* Best Western Sharon has a kitchen if needed.
* There is indoor space for families to congregate.

Policies have been developed for families as to when they should phone 911 for an emergency and when they should use urgent care. McLean has worked with local urgent care facilities to confirm procedures for the migrant families. She has also worked with and lined up options for health care of adults and children with providers who accept MassHealth. A partnership has been established with an MD who works in migrant health. Mattapan Community Health Center is accepting children and they are looking for someone to help with registering the kids. Have also partnered with John Pincus, Codman Square Health Center for adult medical needs. A clinic has been set for January 6th tentatively. Codman Square Health Center and Brockton Health Center will also provide eye vision services/ additional sites for dental. Definitely need assistance with registering folks for their first visit with primary care providers/pediatricians.

Jonathan Snow mobile clinic will be providing a vaccine clinic to catch folks up with needed and required vaccines and will be working with Quest for lead testing.

The State is impressed with our delivery of services to migrant families and would like to model our system into best practices.

The task force continues to meet weekly. Donations are being tracked, with a memorandum being put in place with Sharon Rotary for taking in business donations. Transportation is becoming more formalized. A “laundry train” has been put in place with some off-site opportunities available.

ESL will begin in early January at the Chinese Church

**Health Department update-MCLEAN**

The Bristol Norfolk shared services group met this past Tuesday. In a continued effort to provide equitable services and standardization across all towns within the Bristol Norfolk shared service grant, one thing being looked is what different restaurants doing and what they are doing well. The thought is possibly putting out a monthly newsletter which would contain training information as well as available resources.

DPH Vaccine for Children (VFC) Inspection – Everything has been fully remediated and new protocols have been developed and approved.

Animal Permits: Finishing up permitting. There will be modifications to two permits. Permit holders will be attending the January meeting. There are no changes to these permits, but these specific permits must be reviewed yearly. A hearing on another permit will be held as the applicant wishes to increase the number of horses she currently is permitted for.

Board members should have received an email of the minutes from the November Town Meeting.

SSPARC update. Have not yet heard about funding for FY24. Senator Timilty has been sent emails for any information and updates.

Risk Assessment Survey results overview. A data presentation was held this past week on the results of the Risk Assessment that was done several months ago. The presentation went well and will help to guide us to where we are heading. It showed how important mental health issues are. Will be working on reinvigorating Mindwise and Interface.

Opioid Abatement Funds – Department of Revenue has allowed funding to come directly into a separate account set up specifically for Opioid abatement to be used immediately and not have to be voted on at Town meeting.

Requirements have been set for PHEP (emergency preparedness) trainings. Health Department staff will be required to have specific trainings, including several ICS trainings, by the end of 2024. The Health Department is currently working on ensuring that the staff are sufficiently trained.

Work Force Standards – Blueprint for excellence in Public Health. Standardization of credentials and specific trainings for those working in public health. Development of a waiver process for a segment of folks currently working in public health. McLean has offered to be on this committee.

* Callan is in the process of completing the Foundations course and will receive a stipend for obtaining this credential, like that of which McLean recently completed and received. This was agreed by Board without a vote.

The Health Department will be supporting the request of the Animal Control Officer to increase her hours. We work very closely and with the ever-changing responsibilities, believe this increase will benefit the Town.

McLean has been working with Health Inspector Kevin DuQuette. A business had a request to set up vending machines at Liquor World using biometric technology. Items to be sold would include CBD products. Sharon would be one of the first communities to have such a machine, so McLean, DuQuette have been reviewing what would be acceptable and what would not, as well as working with MHOA to develop regulations.

McLean introduced Susan Saunders, who may join the Board of Health

**2024 Meeting Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| January 17 | Dec |
| February 28 | October 16 |
| March 27 | November 20 |
| April 24 | December 18 |
| May 22 |  |
| June, July and August to be voted at a later date |  |

**Minutes review and approval**

**Motion:** To approve November meeting minutes, Klassman, Fliegler,

Peterson Flieger-Aye, Johnson-Aye, Levine-Aye, Klassman-Aye, Mesiha-Aye

**Motion:** To adjoin meeting. Peterson Flieger, Johnson

Peterson Flieger-Aye, Johnson-Aye, Levine-Aye, Klassman-Aye, Mesiha-Aye

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm