

Board of Health Meeting

March 25, 2015

Sharon Community Center, Conference Room

Present: Chuck Levine; Ed Little; Luba Raynus; Ken Zoller; Jay Schwab; Jim Andrews; Beverly Anderson

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm.

Chuck Levine began by describing the budget and the Finance Committee review of the narrative. Questions were asked about fixed and uncontrollable items. Levine noted that the Board of Health cannot vote on these items. He explained that salary increases over FY 15 represented a major portion of the overall budget increase, along with the \$12,500 reinstituted in the budget for a contract inspector.

Levine described briefly changes to the subsidized trash program, which provides free trash pick-up for Sharon residents who either are over 60 years of age and meet specific income criteria, or are disabled. Beverly Anderson provided further information on the program, and a new collaboration with the Council of Aging to improve use of the benefit by residents. The work with the Council on Aging will also help connect seniors and disabled persons with additional sources of income and support. Luba Raynus asked that the letter to residents and the description of the program include language indicating that assistance would be provided to qualified persons and families based on funding limits.

The Board voted to endorse the residential trash pick-up program as outlined with additional safeguards to limit the program to the stated budget. Jay Schwab moved to accept, Raynus seconded, and all other members approved, with the exception of Ed Little who abstained.

Concerns were registered regarding the lack of Board approval for the municipal trash contract issued in 2014.

Levine then described the need for changes to permit signing to ensure that permits go out in a timely manner. Anderson indicated that at this time permits that businesses and residents have paid for take weeks to be sent as the Board of Health members cannot sign them quickly. The delay caused by the number of signatures required is interrupting issuance of the different permits the Board awards. A discussion was held as to the type of permits (e.g., permanent food facilities v. temporary). It was noted that some permits must be signed quickly so getting all the signatures on the permits will take time. Levine moved to have three (3) Board members sign permanent permits, in addition to the Health Administrator's signature. Jay Schwab seconded the motion and all approved.

For temporary permits, Levine motioned that the Chairman of the Board or his/her designee along with the Health Administrator be able to sign the permits. Raynus seconded and all approved.

Regarding sign-off for payments, Levine asked Anderson and the Board for a general amount (e.g., \$250, \$500, \$1,000) that Anderson as Health Administrator might be able to sign for independently without

additional Board signatures. Raynus and others at the Board indicated that anything under \$250 might be allowable for Anderson's sign off. The Board asked that all vouchers for the month of a given meeting be brought into the Board meeting for review in order to further evaluate vouchers and expenses .

The Board reviewed the current report on the revolving funds. Comments were made as to the lack of income information for each fund, which they requested for the next meeting. Anderson indicated she would address the issue.

The Board also wanted to know more about the Septic Fund; Anderson indicated she would find out its history. The Board also requested an accounting of the Healthcare Revolving Account and the Donations Account.

Levine described the codification project the Town initiated with regard to local by-laws and regulations. Anderson indicated that the Health Department and Board needed to review the comments on health regulations by the end of the summer. Levine then asked Anderson to briefly review the spreadsheet on the existing Board of Health regulations that she had distributed. Anderson described the content as a brief overview of the regulations, including a key to an initial prioritization of review based on her initial assessment. The Board discussed having Anderson work with staff to review the regulation and provide initial comments and content in future meetings. Jim Andrews described work on Article 7.

Levine brought up the issue of Air bNb, a website that allows for independent rental advertisements in homes. Anderson indicated that such rental units could be regulated by local public health agencies under the housing code and local regulation.

Jay Schwab asked that information from the Animal Inspector, Ed Little, be provided. Anderson said the annual Town Report provided such information. Levine suggested that the inspector be asked to a Board meeting to describe his role and current issues with the Board members.

Levine asked for a calendar of trainings the staff wish to take be presented at the next meeting.

Levine noted that the Board members all now have a town email address. He also indicated that there will be a "board of health" email that will be sent to all Board members, but not to staff. Anderson indicated that it might be helpful to the Board if website emails could be sent to the Health Department to avoid unnecessary work for the Board. She was told to ask Don Hillegass in IT if this could be done.

Anderson informed the Board that a request for a hearing for 635 Old Post Road—a subdivision there—had been received. The Board agreed to hold the hearing at the April meeting.

Next meetings of the Board of Health were tentative scheduled for April 14th and for May 27th.

Jay Schwab noted that he had asked Anderson to place a press release regarding the prohibition of dogs on the town beaches. Anderson indicated that the press release had been written.

Schwab also asked that the Board consider decreasing the level of fluoride in town water from 1 ppm to 0.7 ppm. The Board asked that he and Anderson research the matter.

Raynus asked for an analysis of lake waters to be used as a basis for determining the need or not for twice weekly testing of waters at town beaches during the swimming season.

Raynus mentioned an April 12th music event to celebrate Sharon's anniversary.

Ken Zoller moved to adjourn the meeting; Raynus seconded. The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.