

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:00pm

Via Zoom # 288 065 7034 or in person

Present: Board Members: Herb Butzke, Chair, Board Members: Dan Poplawski and Joanne Semanie, Christine Bailey, Health Clerk and Rachel Lewis, RN

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Herb Butzke at the Rowe Town Hall.

General Business:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the November 2, 2022, meeting.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve all invoices.

Transfer Station

- The Transfer Station logs were reviewed and read by Dan Poplawski.
- The \$4,000 MIIA grant that was submitted has been approved.
- Christine is working with Josh Jones of Colrain on a quote for the dumpster concrete crack. Jan Ameen needs a quote to give to the hauler's insurance company.
- Jan Ameen sent an email outlining FY23 MRF fees and the RDP Share for Rowe.
- Rowe received an award of \$3,500 for RDF funds. Chris to check balances with Dave in Accounting.

Nurse Updates:

- Rachel said the Foot Clinic was held on November 3, 2022. There were two noted no shows and nine participating. The December clinic is already full and only a few open slots for January.
- Flu shots are still available in the office. Rachel has displayed the sandwich board outside the town hall
- Covid updates: Last 7 days there were 62 new cases reported in Franklin County, 147 cases in Berkshire County. There have been approximately 500 hospitalizations in the state with 147 hospitalized FOR COVID. Death rates also remain low. In Franklin County 1 probable new death in the past week and in the state 83 probable deaths in past week. In Rowe there has been a positivity rate of 15% (2 positive of 13 tests). Lydia Brisson, RN at Rowe Elementary reported only 3 positive cases since mid-September with no concern over FLU/RSV. Massachusetts has one of the highest vaccination rates: 92% at least one dose, compared to 80% of total U.S. Franklin county: 76% with primary series completed, 65% boosted. (60% Massachusetts boosted)
- Flu updates: Flu activity remains low in Massachusetts thus far, but cases are on the rise, predominantly in Central MA. On the interactive flu dashboard we are at a higher than normal positivity percentage rate for this time of the year than in the past few years.
- Rachel said the Health Services budget for FY24 should remain the same.
- Rachel shared her individual statistics.

Water Testing: Herb reviewed the Housatonic Basin Sampling Testing reports. All levels remain safe.

Rowe Elementary School: Randy Crochier conducted and emailed his results for the inspection at the school. All areas were in compliance.

FY24 "Budget Kick-off" Meeting – The kickoff meeting will be Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 6 pm via zoom or at the town hall. Joanne and Herb will be attending. It was noted the Refuse Garden Operations line item will need to be adjusted due to raising prices on hauling, etc.

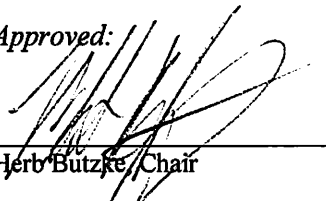
New Business: (Unforeseen matters not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting):

Resident Comments/Questions: *It is requested that residents wait for comments during a meeting until recognized by the Chairperson.*

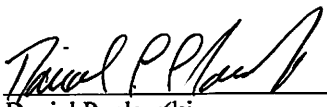
Meeting Adjourned: 6:37 pm unanimously

Next meeting: December 7, 2022, at 6:00 pm

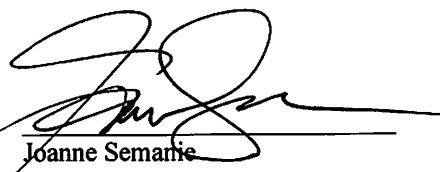
Approved:



Herb Butzke, Chair



Daniel Poplawski



Joanne Semarie