

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom # 288 065 7034 or in person

Present: Board Members: Herb Butzke, Chair; Dan Poplawski, Board Member; 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 December 14, 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.
- Three soiled mattresses were disposed of in October.
- Chair Herb spoke with Jan Ameen and she expressed that Waste Management is claiming their haul truck did not hit the dumpster wall and was already cracked/damaged. Jan will be contesting the claim and visiting the site with an adjuster.

Nurse Updates:

- Rachel reported the Flu update: ILI 8% (about double what it has been for last 3 years at this time of year). 5% Hospitalizations at this time for Influenza. Flu activity remains 'very high' for the 4th straight week in all of Massachusetts (we have not had 4 straight weeks of 'very high' for past 6 years of data)
- Covid update: This past week 8,327 new cases in Mass (slightly higher than previous weeks) with 11% positivity rate. 160 cases in Franklin County and 0 cases reported in Rowe in past 2 weeks. 1,139 hospitalizations in Mass and 369 of those hospitalized primarily with Covid. 113 Covid-related deaths in Mass, 4 Covid-related deaths in Franklin County.
- Several residents have expressed the Town buying flu swabs. The Board agreed this is not a cost effective solution and is of no benefit towards treatment. (\$435 for 25 swabs = \$17.40 a swab).
- Rachel is hosting the Wellness Clinic scheduled on Thursday, January 26, 2023. She will be working on posting flyers and putting out the sandwich board. Jessi Byrne of Northern Berkshire Community Coalition will be attending, along with FRCOG nurses offering information on fall prevention, dementia, etc. Rachel will be offering blood pressure checks and Christine will be offering mini reflexology sessions.
- Rachel reported her individual statistics for the month of December. She had an average of 7 patients a day in the 12 days that she worked, servicing 83 patients.
- Rachel reported her total spend for FY23 to date:
 - Summary of Accounts: Balance \$4,578 (spent \$2,812 to date)
 - Vaccine acct: Balance \$1,580
- The foot clinic for January is tomorrow with a full roster.

- Rachel said she will be attending an ACLS class for her licensure on January 30, 2023. She will be working at the Town on Tuesday, January 31st instead. Also, She will be working an hour shorter on Mondays during the months of January and February, making up the time on Thursdays, due to personal reasons.

FY24 BUDGET: Chair Herb submitted the FY24 BOH Budget to the Finance Committee. Christine will send to Herb steps and salaries of all BOH employees to complete the salary line items. He will submit the final budget to the Finance Committee on January 19, 2023.

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

NEW BUSINESS: Dan inquired about the clean up at 96 Ford Hill Road. Herb will call Randy for an update.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:31 pm unanimously

Next meeting: January 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Approved:



Herb Butzke, Chair

Daniel Poplawski

Joanne Semanie