



City of Westfield, Massachusetts

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Health Department
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MAR 10 2023

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BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2023

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Board of Health Participants

Staff

Juanita Carnes, Chair
Stanley Strzempko, M.D.
Carrie Hildreth-Fiordalice

Joseph Rouse, Health Director
Kimberly Sienkiewicz, Acting Secretary

Chair Carnes called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. A motion was made by member Strzempko, seconded and unanimously VOTED to approve the monthly bills as submitted from the Health Department and Transfer Station.
2. A motion was made by member Strzempko, seconded and VOTED to approve the minutes of December 14, 2022 and January 18, 2023 special meeting as presented. Member Carrie Hildreth-Fiordalice abstained due to this being her first meeting and she was not in attendance at these Board of Health meetings.
3. Carrie Hildreth-Fiordalice was welcomed as the newly appointed Board of Health member.

Member Fiordalice told the board a little about herself and her education and work experience.

At this time a motion was made by Chair Carnes, seconded and unanimously VOTED to turn the chair over to member Strzempko, so that she can speak during public participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Under "Public Participation" the Board of Health was addressed by Juanita Carnes, 57 Holland Avenue, Westfield, MA.

Ms Carnes spoke to defend her record after three Westfield City Councilors objected to her reappointment last week. She also stated that public health decisions are made based on science and research, not public opinions. She also thanked the councilors that did support her and her reappointment along with Mayor Michael McCabe.

With no further public participation, a motion was made by member Fiordalice and unanimously VOTED to return the chair over to Chair Carnes.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Public Health Nurse Evelyn Bristol and Council on Aging Director Tina Gorman were present to update the board on the Senior Center Nursing programs.

Nurse Bristol stated the following:

- She has been working at the Senior Center close to a year now.
- She sees seniors daily to do blood pressure checks, work on weight loss –dietary needs, educational topics and any other issues the senior may want to talk about.
- She is currently doing blood pressure clinics at General Shepard and Hamden Village and hope other centers will be on board soon. These clinics allow her to give to the seniors an average blood pressure reading so if there are any issues they can show their primary care doctor.
- She currently is in charge of the medical equipment loan program.

Director Gorman stated the following:

- Evelyn is a great fit for the Senior Center.
- Evelyn has been going on more home visits.
- With these home visits and blood pressure clinics it opens the door to more issues that our seniors are facing and we are able to try to get them the help they need.

Nurse Bristol submitted to the Board a Westfield Council on Aging pamphlet which describes all the resources that they have to offer for our seniors.

Director Gorman stated that a new program that they are working on to offer is foot care. Nurse Bristol will be going on a training in late April to be trained to help our seniors who need help. She also stated that she is looking forward to bringing back more programs that her staff and Nurse Bristol can implement.

The Board instructed Nurse Bristol if there are any issues that she is not trained on to treat or are severe she should advise them to seek medical attention with their primary doctor and or the ER.

2. Health Director Joseph Rouse stated the following regarding COVID-19 test kits and supplies:
 - We have received 2 pallets of COVID-19 test kits that show an expiration dates of August, 2023. That date has now been extended out 6 months to February, 2024.
 - We also had a lot of PPE supplies that we received from the National Guard during COVI such as masks, hand sanitizer, Anti-bacterial wipes.
 - We have put everything we have on a table by the elevator for residents to take them.
 - All supplies except for the COVID-19 test kits are gone.
3. Health Director Rouse stated that on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 from 5pm to 8pm we will be holding the 3rd Annual silent drive by tribute for each Westfield Community member we have lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. A lit candle will be placed for each life lost on the City Green and visitors may drive by or circle the rotary in observance. We ask that no gathering on the City Green take place.

ENVIRTONMENTAL HEALTH:

Health Director Rouse stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:

Health Director Rouse stated that starting next week he will be working on visiting each food service establishment and doing a written assessment on their operation. If there is an issues he will go back and do a full inspection of the establishment.

LANDFILL/TRANSFER STATION:

Health Director Rouse stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Health Director Rouse stated that the Medical Reserves Corp is going strong. Dan Knapik is the new Director of the MRC which is a volunteer position. Director Rouse stated that the MRC is deployed when they receive a call from himself, the Director of Emergency Management or the Mayor in an emergency situation.

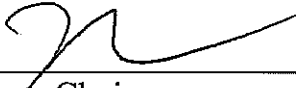
Director Rouse also stated that the Mayor has appointment Ronald Gibbons as the new Emergency Management Director.

PERSONNEL:

Director Rouse stated the following:

- The position of Heavy Equipment operator at the Twiss Street transfer station will be filled soon.
- The vacancy positions for Public Health Inspector, Public Health Nurse and Substance Use Coordinator are all advertised and will be filled shortly,

With nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Juanita Carnes, Chair

Approved: