

City of Westfield, Massachusetts
Health Department

Board of Health Meeting
Room 220
February 12, 2020



Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Teresa Mitchell, M.D.

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:25 p.m. City Councilwoman Kristen Mello was present for public participation. The Board began discussing items on the agenda.

Review and Approve Minutes from January 8, 2020 Meeting: The minutes were reviewed and accepted as printed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Kristen Mello introduced herself to the Board and advised that she will be serving as the City Council liaison to the Board. Joseph Rouse gave Ms. Mello a brief explanation of those items with which the Board is currently involved and invited her to tour the Transfer Station.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Staff Nurse Position Update: The Health Dept. has hired Ms. Evelyn Bristol as the Staff Nurse. Ms. Bristol resides in Ludlow, MA and has specialized in infectious diseases. She will be introduced at the next Board meeting. Currently, there are three nursing students from Westfield State University working with the Health Department nurses once a week.

Communicable Disease Discussion: Tina Gorman, Executive Director of the Council on Aging, had requested that Mr. Rouse discuss the Coronavirus on her radio show. Dr. Lovelace was also included in this discussion. The CDC and DPH provide frequent updates and have advised that this area is currently at a low risk for Coronavirus, although influenza numbers are high. Of the thirteen Coronavirus cases in the United States, one is in Massachusetts. The on-air discussion included symptoms, what to tell the doctor, benefits of handwashing, and advising individuals to stay at home if they recently visited China. Since there is currently no vaccine, communities should review their preparedness. Westfield has enough supplies to deal with any cases.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:

Grease Trap Variance Request – Results in Wellness, LLC, 93B Springfield Street: This establishment will soon be opening. It will include a wellness center, doctor, chiropractor, and massage therapist. There will be a limited food menu consisting of non-dairy based smoothies only. They indicated they have no desire to expand their menu, however, that could change. A Motion was made and seconded to grant a variance to Results in Wellness, LLC, to omit a grease trap; however, should the Board at any time feel the need for a grease trap, one would have to be installed. The Board will revisit this issue in one year.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes	--	Yes
Mitchell	--	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

Howard Street Properties: The Grabowski property is currently being handled in the City's Law Department. Mr. Rouse will request the status from them. Mr. Rouse will discuss this with Inspector Steve Cipriani as well as a police officer who may be able to assist with code/ordinance violations. Mr. Rouse will provide an update on both properties at the next meeting.

LANDFILL:

Transfer Station Update: Mr. Rouse stated that the City has decided to opt out of the contract with the Massachusetts Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield and begin using Murphy Road in Wilbraham to help reduce recycling costs. Other future options are being discussed. Tighe & Bond will be serving as consultants and DEP liaisons to assist in determining the most advantageous action for the City.

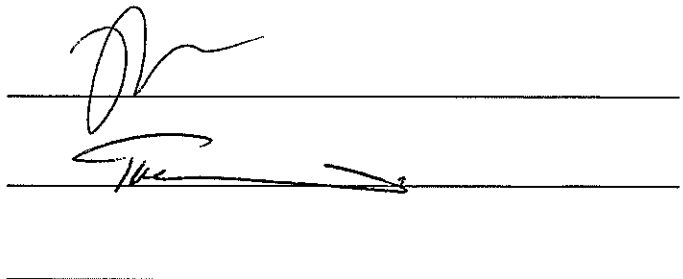
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Current Preparedness Status Report: Jim Wiggs of Emergency Management will soon be retiring but has offered to stay as long as possible to assure the Health Department has everything they need for a clinic should there be one. A trailer has been loaded with supplies and can be brought to the site of any large-scale clinic if necessary.

Upcoming Events/Trainings: There will be a tabletop exercise in March at Pioneer Valley Planning demonstrating proper procedures to follow in the event of a chemical spill, train wreck, etc. Also, the Health Department staff will need their NIMS Certification and Incident Command Certificates. Mr. Rouse is the only individual that will be required to take classroom training.

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



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/cam

Next anticipated meeting date: March 11, 2020