



# City of Westfield, Massachusetts

## Health Department

**Board of Health Meeting**  
**Room 220**  
August 9, 2023

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

Staff: Debra Mulvenna, Assistant Health Director  
Cheryl McMordie, Secretary

Chair Carnes opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. There was no one present wishing to speak during public participation. Minutes from the June 14, 2023, and June 22, 2023, meetings were reviewed and accepted as printed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 14, 2023, and June 22, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Hildreth-Fiordalice	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

Monthly bills for the Health Department and Transfer Station were signed.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

### **SUBSTANCE USE OUTREACH COORDINATOR UPDATE:**

The recently hired Substance Use Outreach Coordinator has resigned citing that the position was not what she had expected. There was a lot of administrative work to be done initially. Suggestions were made regarding the job description and qualifications required. There is Settlement Fund money in the City's general fund to reimburse the Health Department for this position, however it cannot be accessed until all accounts are closed for the year and money certified. Nurse Tessa Sweeney has agreed to assist in upcoming events and meetings, etc. until such time as a replacement is found. Ms. Hildreth-Fiordalice stated that she would prefer that someone with substance use experience be hired.

Westfield's International Overdose Awareness Day: The vigil will be held on August 31, 2023, and, in the absence of the outreach coordinator, Kimberly Sienkiewicz will be assisting with the coordination of this event.

Personnel Update and Plan: The new Public Health Nurse, Tessa Sweeney, recently started her position in the Health Dept. She previously worked for Spectrum operating a mobile unit providing substance use treatment on the streets, a program which she herself ran.



**ACTING HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Food Inspection Update: Asst. Director Mulvenna presented the board members with a listing of food establishment inspections performed by Inspector Ned Saviski for the months of June and July. Currently there are approximately 236 Class 1, 2 and 3 food establishments. He is also assisting Inspector Crystal Dugay with septic work.

9 Zepher Drive: This property has been on the code enforcement listing for quite a while. It burned in 2020. Complaints have been received of people living there. Debra Mulvenna and Ned Saviski conducted a drive by and took photos which were presented to the board. Currently there is no water or ability to dispose of sewage. Temporary electric was installed for new building purposes; however, it has since been disconnected due to the lack of permits. A letter will be sent to the owners advising that an inspection of the property has been conducted and it was found unfit for human habitation. The Board will hold a public hearing on September 13, 2023, to determine if the dwelling is unfit for human habitation; if the premises should be secured; and a notice to vacate issued. A vote should also be taken for condemnation.

81 S. Maple Street: Inspector Dugay reinspected this apartment and found no progress in the clean-up. However, within the last few days significant progress has been made and resources have been found to assist the tenant. At this time, no action will be taken.

Landfill Update Regarding Repairs: The Landfill has remained under the control of the Health Dept. because of the emittance of methane, which has now decreased tremendously. The current flare, which draws out the methane, has been very sporadic. After discussions with Tighe & Bond, it may be time to install the next phase – a passive system wherein the gas filters naturally through a series of bio-beds. Repairs also need to be done to the cap. We may need to go to Council for funding.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

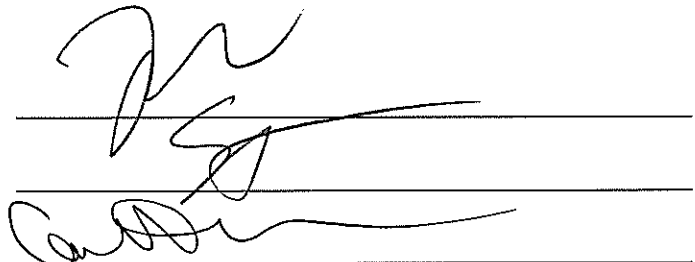
*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Hildreth-Fiordalice	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



/cam

*Next anticipated meeting date: September 13, 2023*