

TOWN OF AYER BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of August 28, 2017



Chair P. Papineau called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Members present included: *Chair* Pamela Papineau, *Clerk* Mary Spinner, *Member* Patricia Peters, and *Administrative Assistant* Jane Morriss. Meeting recorded by APAC

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: M. Spinner requested that the minutes of July 24 be amended to mention that Sherman Whitman, the Mid-Day host of the RCA (Recovery Center of America) Radio Hour on Fitchburg station WPKZ, was interviewed in an article about the opioid crisis that appeared in the July 23rd edition of the Lowell Sun.

NABOH MATERIAL (B. BRALEY):

- Nasoya Odor Complaints: Don Osmar attended the last BOS meeting where he complained about the foul odors. The Mass DEP is involved. Health Agent B. Braley, Town Administrator Robert Pontbriand, and DPW Superintendent Mark Wetzel are meeting with officials from Nasoya August 29 to determine how to proceed to correct the problem.
- B. Braley sent a certified letter to Robert Martin, landlord of 81 Willard Street, giving him 30 days to correct several violations. She will be following up to make sure that the work has been done.
- She also completed inspections at Nashoba Valley Health Center and Apple Valley Nursing Facility.
- Coneco notified B. Braley about a release (release tracking number 2-20193) of approximately 240 gallons of non-polychlorinated biphenyl (non-PCB) mineral oil dielectric fluid (from a 500 kVA wall bushing at the Sandy Pond HVDC Converter Terminal located at 55 Raddison Road, owned by the New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid.
- An application for a license to buy, sell, exchange, or assemble second-hand motor vehicles at 0 Willow Road was withdrawn after B. Braley notified the BOS (C. Antonellis) that the proposal was a prohibited use of the property.

NABOH QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT (M. SPINNER):

- The NABOH Executive Board welcomed a new member from Stow, Marcia Rising. NABOH is now operating with a full staff. There is nothing new to report about the pension problem. M. Spinner explained to the BOH how the problem originated 30 years ago with a misunderstanding about withholding amounts, which was not noticed until three years ago. A meeting to discuss the issue is scheduled to convene on September 7. The NABOH went slightly over budget last year. They decided to increase one of the inspection fees that does not affect the towns. NABOH reports getting more calls, and they are being called on to check on more and more homes. They have a nurse who specializes in hording, and her services are in great demand. People seem to be more overwhelmed with life in general, and sometimes it is just a matter of knowing who they can call and where they can go.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

- There is nothing new to report on any proposed legislation addressing various "new" tobacco products or changing the legal age to purchase tobacco products.
- Cannabis update: The picture from Beacon Hill continues to be confusing. The Governor is finally getting around to naming representatives to serve on the cannabis board, and they all seem to be against legalization. It is clear that Ayer will need to wait until the directives coming from Beacon Hill become more clear before it considers what, if any, stance it wants to take. Much of the BOH's discussion circled around the will of the voters to legalize cannabis versus Beacon Hill's apparent foot-dragging to work out the details about legalizing recreational cannabis which could be summarized as "What gives the legislature the right to ignore the will of the voters?"
- Opioid Crisis: P. Peters said she heard back from Sherman Whitman from WPKZ. He agreed to pass on her email request, to Jim Wahlberg from Recovery Centers of America, for some representation at an upcoming Opioid forum, being planned for October. The Board asked J. Morriss to ask C. Knox to set up an opioid file on the BOH

website. J. Morriss said the opioid panel can be filmed at the APAC studio at the high school in October, and will work with P. Peters to coordinate the arrangements.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

- Mail review: August 22 update from C. Purdy regarding on-going complaints from a neighbor about inadequate fencing and the exploding census of goats and chickens at 17 Taft Street, resulting in an up-coming visit by the MSPCA. Two transmittal forms (15 Fitchburg Road and the former fire station at 14 Washington Street) from the ZBA which will be referred to B. Braley. Notification to the DPW from the MassDEP items certifying the 1-million gallon Pingry Hill Water Storage Tank and Solar Bee mixing system will be complete once the area is fenced, loamed, and planted with grass. Notification from the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project informing us that the spraying program will cease at the end of August due to the reduced mosquito populations and decreasing service requests from residents.
- Bills: The Board signed an invoice to pay a bill from WB Mason in the amount of \$52.18 for new file folders.
- Administrative Assistant Update: The BOH office will be moving into the space most recently occupied by the Office of Economic Opportunity to provide the new Town Planner with an office to afford a modicum of privacy.
- Action items for September 11 meeting: Opioid Crisis (P. Peters and J. Morriss), Nasoya update, new volunteer to attend Shepley's Hill meetings.

ADJOURN: M. Spinner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm, and P. Peters 2nd. 3/0 A

Pam Papineau, Chair



Mary Spinner, Clerk



Patricia Peters, Member

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