

TOWN OF GROVELAND

2020 JAN 15 AM 10:49

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**BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 17, 2019**

**ATTENDEES: Joan Searl, RN, Chairwoman
Deborah Kadar-Hull, RN, Member
Michael Meagher, Member
Deborah Ketchen, Health Agent (Absent)
Claire Walsh, RN, Public Health Nurse
Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.**

Meeting Open: 6:30 PM

AGENDA:

First agenda item is 32 Benjamin St., septic system plan review. William Holt, PLS, RS, SE, 83 West Main St., Merrimac, MA was in attendance to inform the Board of the specifics of this septic system plan. Bill told the Board that he needed to expand the leach field only. Bill said the current septic system is fine but it was designed for three (3) bedrooms. Bill said the present homeowners have lived in the home for 20 years and during that time added two additional bedrooms, therefore, the leachfield needs to be expanded to accommodate the two additional bedrooms. Searl asked Bill Holt if the system was 100 feet from the well and Bill said yes. Searl asked if there is a reserve area because it is her understanding that there must be a reserve area to be compliant with Title 5 and Bill said that is correct. Bill told the Board that this is a gravity system, he is keeping the existing 1,500 gallon septic tank and the leachfield is 25 ft x 50 ft which is in compliance with a five bedroom design. Bill said there are no waivers, the system conforms with all codes and setbacks so this system is fairly straight forward.

Searl made a motion to approve the expansion of the leachfield to a five bedroom design at 32 Benjamin St., Meagher seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Second on the agenda is 106 King St., septic system plan review. William Holt was in attendance accompanied by Kevin Cunniff, King Meadow Development, LLC, 211 Seven Star Rd., Groveland, MA. Bill told the Board that the existing house is old and will be demolished and a new house will be built with a new septic system. This will be the first house in this new subdivision. Bill told the Board that this conforms with all codes and setbacks, there are no waivers. Bill pointed out the reserve area and stated that this is a gravity system with a standard sand and stone bed. Kadar-Hull asked about number of bedrooms and Bill said this system is designed for four (4) bedrooms.

Searl made a motion to approve the septic system plan as submitted for 106 King St., Meagher seconded and it was a unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda is health agent job description/interim health agent. Searl informed the Board members that initially the health agent agreed to continue to work in the interim at her current pay rate until the Board hired a new health agent. Searl told the Board that two days later she received a call from the health agent and the health agent stated that she would continue to work as a consultant at an hourly rate of \$38 per hour. The Board stated that hourly rate is considerably more than what she is making currently and we can't afford \$38 per hour from the amount that is budgeted at town meeting for the health agent salary. The Board reviewed the job description. Searl made a motion to approve the health agent job description as written and to be submitted to the Finance Director/Personnel Director for posting, Kadar-Hull seconded and it was a unanimous vote. Next the Board discussed people that would be qualified to perform health agent duties in the interim. The Board asked Lori to contact former Board member Richard Lombard and former health agent Joseph Tevald to see if they would be interested in interviewing for the position. The Board asked Lori to schedule the interviews as soon as possible.

Next item on the agenda is public health nurse update/rabies bill. Claire told the Board that this bill was issued due to a rabies exposure to a newborn in Groveland. Claire said the baby was not bitten but there was a bat flying around the house and any excrement, saliva, feces, etc. is considered exposure. Therefore, the bat had to be tested by the Department of Public Health for rabies. Claire told the Board that thankfully the test results were negative. Claire said that the Police Department forwarded to the bill to us for payment and the Board of Health has never paid these bills in the past. Claire said the bill is not for the testing, the state performs rabies testing free of charge. This bill is for specimen prep for rabies testing and shipping to the DPH in Jamaica Plain. The \$100 is to be paid to the animal hospital for the specimen prep and shipping. The Board stated that the health department has never paid these bills in the past and the animal control officer is under the jurisdiction of the Police Department. Searl stated that she will contact Chief Gillen to discuss. Claire said she held the second flu clinic yesterday, October 16 and the pharmacist did have eight (8) doses of the high dose vaccine for seniors. Claire said fifteen (15) people attended and received flu shots. Claire said there is a limited supply because, unfortunately, there is a nationwide shortage. Claire told the Board that she contacted the pharmacist at CVS and was told CVS wasn't expecting to receive

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more high dose vaccine for 2-4 weeks. The Board told Claire that due to the fact there was very limited supply of the high dose vaccine for our seniors, they would like her to schedule two more flu clinics in November with the hope the high dose vaccine will be available. The Board suggested scheduling with CVS since Claire has been in contact with that pharmacist.

Next item is to review minutes for approval. Lori told the Board that she had not finished the minutes from last week's Board meeting.

Last on the agenda is previous and new agenda items not anticipated at time of posting. The prospective owner of Groveland Diner, David Jackson, informed Lori yesterday that he and his attorney would be attending the meeting this evening to discuss issues regarding the closing of the restaurant. Mr. Jackson and his attorney did not attend the meeting this evening.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 PM

Next Board of Health meeting will be scheduled as needed.

Minutes transcribed by Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.