



Town of Agawam

Board of Health

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Gladys Fernandez-Largay, MD	- Chairman
Mary Jo Safford, NP	- Vice Chair
Mary Lee Bertrand, BSN	- Member
Michael Theroux	- Health Agent
Sherry Petrucci, RN	- Public Health Nurse
Beth Ceccarini	- Secretary

Meeting Minutes - April 14, 2021

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

Attendance : All Board Members present

Documents distributed at meeting :

-Board of Health Agenda

Meeting Called to Order : 5:00 pm by Chairman Fernandez

Chairman Fernandez read to the Board the policy guidelines for running a municipal meeting remotely. These guidelines are from Governor's executive orders due to Corona Virus. Included with these minutes is a copy of this policy.

Approval of minutes : A motion to approve the March BOH minutes was made by Vice Chair Safford and seconded by Member Bertrand. Motion to approve minutes: 3-0.

Citizen Speak Time : None contacted the Health Department nor joined in the Zoom remote BOH meeting.

Old Business : none

New Business : Town Buildings: Agent Theroux told the Board that municipal offices are open to the public except for the Senior Center. He told them so far it seems to be working out well with all residents masked and following social distance protocols. He also let them know there is a Police Officer in the lobby of the Town Hall to assist the public and reduce the number of residents in each office. Health Agent Theroux is hoping to have future BOH meetings back at the Senior Center. He will speak to the Senior Center Director and check on the feasibility.

79 Carr Avenue: The owner has moved some vehicles off the property. The next scheduled inspection is on April 28th to make sure more vehicles and a boat are also removed from the property. According to the agreement the owner needs to be making trips to the dump each two week period. The next scheduled housing court date is April 29th. Chairman Fernandez asked if on the 29th the court would address the original concerns about the fire safety issues on the property and with the home itself. Agent Theroux was not sure at this time due to fact the Building Inspector is also having safety issues. The garage needs to be removed or dismantled in the near future. One of the main issues was a number of vehicles blocking access to the garage. Removal of those vehicles needs to be done to actually make the garage accessible for removal.

New Bakery: Opening soon is Lebanese/Arabic bakery on 369 Walnut Street Ext. near the bowling alley. The owners also have a place in West Springfield. The front part of the store will be a Lebanese/Arabic grocery shop with different ethnic foods and the bakery in back. The Health Agent is working with him on

the food codes and advising about the certificates needed to open in Agawam. Agent Theroux added, it would be good to see another business in that plaza to help that area out.

Elizabeth Manor: A company from East Hartford just purchased the property on Maple Street. A renter from the basement apartment has been having issues with the foundation. The new owner is willing to work with them and repair the cracked foundation. Weather is one of the issues. Other issues are mold and water damage. There is some other work needing to be done in her apartment so she will need to vacate the apartment temporarily so they can comply with repairs. This issue seems to be that she doesn't like any other apartments in that complex offered to her. She does have developing health issues. Some complaints she had were not liking the wall color or doesn't like being on the top floor. The Health Agent is unable to control issues like those. There will be another housing court hearing on Friday the 16th which the town law clerk would attend. The renter seemed unsatisfied with the options presented to her so she retained her own attorney and filed paperwork. It was noted that she had section 8 credits so they would like her to choose one of the apartments that were offered to her temporarily. Agent Theroux told the Board the new owners are working with him to resolve this issue and have been in contact with him through this process. Vice Chairman Safford noted that all this would seem unnecessary for her to take the town to court or get a lawyer given the circumstances. Agent Theroux agreed.

20 Ottawa Street: This has been an on-going situation for well over two years. This is an unhealthy home and we have been trying to work with her. She had a recent court case in the beginning of April. The Agent told them she had been extremely uncooperative with them. The last few times he went to her house she would not let him in. The last 2 inspections he went with the Building Inspector to no avail. He usually takes a photo of himself at the location to prove he went there on that date and time stamps them for court purposes. In discussing the case with the law clerk and the law department, the town would like to move forward with receivership at the next housing court meeting. She has gone through 2 more winters in that home which is questionable at best for this condition of the house. He did reiterate that the house still really needs to be repaired and is somewhat inhabitable.

School Nurse Activities : Nurse Sherry told the Board there are still 2 full-time unfilled positions. One is a nurse in the Junior High School and one is a full time nurse float. The Junior High still needs nursing coverage each day either by substitutes or agency nurses. We have been advertising the job on the School Spring web site, which is a site that educational professionals use to find employees. Applicants need to be Registered Nurses. Sherry also told the members she has had a title change to Public Health Nurse/Lead School Nurse. She will be adding accountability of school nurses to her duties. She is updating the School Policies for nurses. These policies have not been updated in decades and would like to see all the nurses working uniformly on similar situations. She is meeting with the school nurses after school on April 26th to update them on her new position and issues they have as well as policies concerns. Member Bertrand asked Sherry why she thinks we are having a hard time with getting candidates. Sherry told them the salary was definitely an issue. She noted that the surrounding towns were at a higher hourly rate for their school nurses.

Public Health Nurse : Nurse Sherry told the Board that she is still real busy with cases and clinics in the last month and will be in future months. She noted that there were 2,646 total cases with 60 active cases now. 2,284 people have recovered. She noted there were cases with school clusters like town sports. She also let them know that she has vaccinated 4 of the elderly housing complexes here in town. The next clinic she has is the teacher clinic on April 22 (school vacation) with their second doses issued on May 20th.

Adjourned: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chairman Safford seconded by Member Bertrand. With a vote of 3-0 meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

BOH/bc