



*Town of Rochester  
Board of Health  
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**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

**February 8, 2023**

**4:00 PM**

**Present:**            Glenn Lawrence, via telephone            Karen Walega, Health Director  
                         Sarah Tisdale Eby                                    Connie Dolan, Public Health Nurse

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 4:00 PM**

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Review Minutes-            December 7, 2022  
   January 4, 2023  
   January 12, 2023

Sarah Tisdale Eby requested minutes to be emailed for review and signature.

2. Public Health Nurse Contract, 10 Hours-  
Karen Walega explained that 2 contracts will be presented to the Finance Committee; one with 10 hours and the other with 18 hours.  
Sarah Tisdale Eby said she will sign both and is in favor of the increase in hours from 10 to 18.  
Glenn Lawrence said he agreed and will sign when he returns. Karen Walega thanked the board members.
3. Review Correspondence-  
Sarah Tisdale Eby requested correspondence be emailed to board members prior to the meeting so the board members have time to review it prior to the board meeting. Karen Walega agreed and proceeded to explain each correspondence to the board.
  - a. Copy of Proposed FY24 Budget and Cover Letter-Karen Walega explained that she found an error in the budget. \$4000.00 was slated for health insurance, but due to her eligibility for

- b. Board of Health/Building Department Administrative Assistant Job-Karen Walega explained that the former Board of Health Administrative Assistant, Lori Walsh, has moved into the full-time position with the Building Department.
  - c. Posting of Part-time Board of Health Administrative Assistant Job-Karen Walega explained that Bev Reed, A Rochester Senior participating in the tax work off program in Rochester, is helping 4 days a week. The part-time position has been posted and there have been 15 applications received thus far, per Amanda Baptiste at Town Hall. The deadline to apply is February 10, 2023. Karen Walega explained that the Personnel Board will go through the applications and eliminate the ones that are not qualified. More will be known next week.
  - d. Letter to Tighe and Bond Landfill Contract
  - e. Letter to Lifestream, Inc. Regarding 156 Marion Rd.-Karen Walega explained that the system is being pumped 4 times per year, which is more than needed. 2 times per year should be adequate. Sarah Tisdale Eby requested that this issue be revisited.
  - f. Letter to Cape Development regarding Trilside Estates-Karen Walega explained that a multi-signature letter was sent from the Board of Health, Building Department, Planning Department regarding questions and concerns with the project. No response has been received at this point.
  - g. Letter to Catherine JohnAnn Tripp-Karen Walega explained that Dave Souza observed concerns with the septic system. Glenn Lawrence suggested a conversation with the home owner to discuss ways to improve the function of the system. Other solutions can be applied to improve the function of the system until a repair can be made. He wants to work with people to help resolve issues.
  - h. Letter to Harry Riddle - Update regarding 107 Cranberry Highway-Karen Walega explained that there was a report to the Board of Health about cats being trapped. The property owner responded that there is a woman living in a trailer on the property and he requested 30 days to get things in order. Karen Walega would like to inspect the property.
  - i. Letter to DEP from Rochester Board of Health-Karen Walega explained that copies of letters written are available. Sarah Tisdale Eby asked if this pertains to the proposed nitrogen reduction requirements for septic systems by DEP. Karen Walega confirmed this and added that a call was also placed to Straus's office and Dartmouth wrote a 1100 page letter. There is a meeting with DEP on March 1, 2023.
  - j. Letter to DEP from Rochester Board of Selectman-Karen Walega explained that this letter also pertains to the DEP proposed changes to septic systems with regard to nitrogen requirements.
  - k. Brown & Caldwell Quarterly Third-Party Inspection Report-Karen Walega remarked that this looks good and that the report is a requirement.
  - l. MA DEP Zero Waste Materials Recovery Operation and Maintenance-Karen Walega remarked that this looks good.
  - m. MA DEP Zero Waste Materials Recovery Waste Bin Compliance-Sarah Tisdale Eby asked if the drainage issues were resolved and Karen Walega confirmed that they have been.
4. Public Health Nurse Update-Report was emailed to board members prior to the meeting. Sarah Tisdale Eby had questions regarding the MAVEN disease surveillance report. Connie Dolan

referenced the report and cited 50 reportable disease cases in January; 5 Influenza, 1 Hep B, 44 PCR confirmed Covid-19 cases. Covid-19 and Influenza cases are trending down locally. Sarah Tisdale Eby inquired about Influenza vaccinations. Connie Dolan explained that vaccines from other towns were used to continue vaccinations once Rochester's supply was depleted. Sarah Tisdale Eby requested a Workflow Plan for Influenza vaccinations in the fall, including the possibility of using a combination of purchased vaccines and contracting clinics with an outside vendor at no charge to the town. Glenn Lawrence inquired as to whether the MAPHN annual luncheon was a good use of time. Connie Dolan confirmed that it is; networking sharing information with other Public Health Nurses is extremely helpful in operating efficiently and collaboratively. Connie Dolan explained the methodology of the Master Service Agreement with DPH; 1 all-inclusive agreement versus various agreements. Connie Dolan inquired as to whether or not the board would like to receive an email summary of the shared services meetings. Sarah Tisdale-Eby and Glenn Lawrence replied in the affirmative.

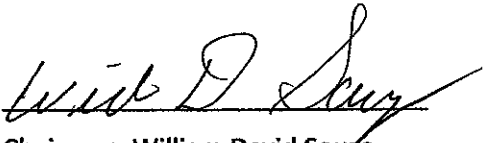
5. Health Director Update-Karen Walega explained that the Correspondence Review and other issues will be provided in an emailed report to the board prior to the monthly meeting going forward. Glenn Lawrence and Sarah Tisdale Eby indicated their agreement with this idea. Karen Walega explained various things occurring; perc tests, inspections, title V meeting on March 5, 2023, changes being made by the Building Commissioner regarding permits which are driven by the state's desire to speed up permitting timeframes, hoarding issues in town, septic issues, permits pulled for Forbes Rd project by a new developer. Sarah Tisdale Eby suggested the primary goal at the moment is to increase the hours of the Public Health Nurse. Glenn Lawrence agreed. Kristine Nash of the Personnel Board entered the meeting room at this point, 4:43 PM, and volunteered her opinion regarding the appropriate procedure for increasing the hours for the Administrative Assistant position. She suggested submitting a job description.

**ANY OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Glenn Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 PM. Sarah Tisdale Eby seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chairman, William David Souza