

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present: Board Members:** Herb Butzke, Chair; Dan Poplawski and Kathleen Atwood, Board Members; Rachel Lewis, Town Nurse and Christine Bailey, BOH Clerk. Phoebe Walker, FRCOG

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Joining the meeting was Phoebe Walker of FRCOG.

**OPIOID Funding /Spending:** Phoebe spoke to the group about the OPIOID funds and how Rowe should incrementally receive and disperse them. She said Rowe was granted \$91,000 which possibly included the Zoar Trailer Park due to zip code/zoning. The group discussed the following points:

1. The BOH Board to figure out how much money is in Rowe's accounting system, and whether a stabilization fund has been created.
2. Phoebe to get information about the cost of various versions of the NaloxBoxes and share them with the Board. The group discussed in placing a few in Rowe and one in Charlemont. Phoebe will check with the owners of the Zoar Rd Trailer Park about their willingness to host one. Herb will discuss this with the Charlemont BOH at the CPHS meeting at Mohawk next Thursday.
3. Rachel will reach out to Maureen to plan trainings for residents on Narcan administration, which will include giving it out as well. These may end up being combined with other things like a flu clinic or a CPR class, to increase attendance. Phoebe will send Rachel the next Train the Trainer flyer from the OTF when available.
4. The BOH will meet with the school to assess interest in Second Steps training and implementation. Phoebe said Gill and Whately Elementary currently use, if they would like to talk to someone.
5. The BOH is interested in collaborating on funding school counseling or prevention work at Mohawk with other towns who share the high school. Phoebe said discussion will be at the next CPHS Board meeting.
6. BOH will look into purchasing some medication safes to give to those with opioid RX.
7. BOH will check whether the first responders in Rowe already carry Narcan.
8. BOH will publicize the covidtests.gov site and the mass.gov/healthsurvey in the Goal post.

Phoebe left the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

## General Business:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the August 30, 2023, meeting.

**FY24 Budget/Payables:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the following FY24 invoices:

- FCSWMD, Inv 23965 FY24 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Town Admin Assessment; dtd 9/19/23; \$2,104.25
- Sanofi Pasteur, Inv 921140420, dtd 8/28/23; \$1,628.67
- Visa-Amazon, Transponder, Inv. 112-6094565, dtd 4/6/23; \$19.39
- Lodge Tire, Inv G1-123541, dtd 8/23/23; \$62.00
- Waste Mngt, IAC 4626707, dtd 9/6/2023; \$448.14
- FCSWMD, INV 23894, dtd 9/6/23; \$674.30
- FCSWMD, INV 23895, dtd 9/6/23; \$1,764.97
- FCSWMD, INV 23896, dtd 9/6/23; \$1,026.63
- FCSWMD, INV 23897, dtd 9/6/23; \$400.57
- Wired West, Inv 3173445, dtd 8/12/23; \$90.00
- Wired West, Inv 3208085, dtd 9/12/23; \$90.00
- MA Fire Technologies, Inv 204597, dtd 8/29/23; \$75.00
- National Grid, Inv 8/4/23-9/6/23, dtd 9/6/23; \$53.16

**Transfer Station:**

- The Transfer Station logs were reviewed and read by Dan Poplawski
- Due to rain, Josh Jones has not been able to fix the concrete crack. Josh said he will be able to come, weather permitting, next week or the following.
- Christine ordered one Transponder for the Refuse Garden Gate. Herb will program. The BOH office will then assign out only to those needing access.
- Christine called Hastie fence to remind them of the estimate for repair of the Refuse Gardens chain link fence.

**BOH Concerns:**

- Christine contacted the Town Clerk, Kevin Balawick on the steps to remove the "soil map" reference in the bylaws. Kevin is working with the Town Clerk's Association. Herb will contact Randy on working on the by-laws to coincide with other surrounding Towns. Christine will invite Randy to our next meeting.
- Randy Crochier from FRCOG send a letter to the owner of the trailer parked at 285 Zoar Road. The letter states: "There was no evidence that this structure was presently being utilized as temporary housing at this time. As such, the complaint is determined to be unfounded at this time and the file is closed. Please note, that if at any time in the future you choose to utilize this structure as temporary housing please reach out to the Rowe Board of Health. The State Housing Code 105 CMR 441, in section 440 addresses temporary housing and the need for approval in writing from the local Board of Health."

**Water Testing:**

- Herb reviewed the Housatonic Basin Sampling Testing reports. All levels remain safe.

**Nursing Updates:**

- Individual Statistics: 6.5 days worked, 65 patients seen, 61 patients were 65+ (31 different people - some 2X encounters, some 3-4X encounters based upon need)
- Arbovirus: 128 cases of WNV reported in Mosquitoes and 12 EEE cases. Still 3 cases of WNV (no new cases). Rowe 'Low risk' for WNV and EEE.
- Covid/Flu Clinic Update: All set for October 12th from 11-3...save the date in Town Hall and on my door. Will put in Goal post, put it on the sandwich board and make Robo call.
- Covid tests per Phoebe Walker will be available again from the government.

**Correspondence:** PVMCD sent the Arbovirus Surveillance Program Report. EEE was detected in Brimfield, Sutton, Southbridge and Douglas. Christine will post in the October Goal Post the "Protect Yourself from Mosquitoes" flyer.

**New Business:** N/A

**Resident Comments/Questions:** N/A

*Meeting Adjourned: 7:21 pm unanimously*

*Next meeting: October 4, 2023, at 6:00 pm*

Approved:

  
Herb Butts, Chair

  
Daniel Poplawski

  
Kathleen Atwood