

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**Via Zoom # 288 065 7034 or in person**

**Present:** Herb Butzke, BOH Chair; Dan Poplawski and Kathleen Atwood, Board Members; Rachel Lewis, RN and Christine Bailey, Admin Assistant. Randy Crochier, FRCOG, Chief Julie Shippee and Officer C. Selmi Hyytinen joined the meeting.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Herb Butzke at 6:00 p.m.

**Protocols - 96 Ford Hill Road:** Chief Shippee expressed she'd like some protocols put in place concerning those who are struggling mentally, physically, or financially in Town. The group agreed the Town be more alert/aware to those in need and to have better communication between the BOH and Town Police. Randy said if there are any concerns the proper channels would be to first report any concerns to the BOH and a Health Agent (FRCOG). He said FRCOG will inspect the property and if needed, report to Elder Services. He also said hoarding is more common than known and FRCOG can direct the resident to programs and/or Elder Services. Herb suggested the library offer public awareness programs to educate residents. Rachel will write a Goal Post article giving guidelines for neighbors to look after neighbors, to be mandate reporters to help each other. Being the home is a biohazard, Randy Crochier, FRCOG brought the group up to date with the process of getting a house of this caliber cleaned up and who is responsible. He will begin this process. Chief Shippee and C. Selmi Hyytinen left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Randy reported Marueen O'Reilly will be offering two public CPR/First Aid courses in the Spring which will be opened to the public. FRCOG will offer various incentives to subsidize individuals wishing to attend. Randy Crochier left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

**General Business:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2024 meeting.

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

Company	Invoice #	Date	Amount
• Lodge Tire	G1-236428	2/21/24	36.00
• Housatonic Basin	H2402-129	2/29/24	155.00
• Housatonic Basin	H2402-131	2/29/24	180.00
• Housatonic Basin	H2402-132	2/29/24	155.00
• FCSWMD	24481	3/4/24	292.57
• FCSWMD	24482	3/4/24	1,493.76
• FCSWMD	24483	3/4/24	791.80
• FCSWMD	24484	3/4/24	30.00
• FRCOG	2175	3/1/24	1,439.00
• McKesson Surgical	21757873	2/24/24	24.60

FY24 Acct	Account #	7-1-23 Approp	Curr Bal (01-19-24)	Payroll/Payables	Amount	New Bal
Transfer Station Att	01-512-5140	\$16,607.00	\$ 7,522.76			
BOH Stipends	01-512-5141	\$ 4,938.00	\$ 2,469.00			
Clerk Wages	01-512-5142	\$12,880.00	\$ 5,651.90			
Town Nurse	01-512-5143	\$43,997.00	\$ 19,539.27			
Physician Stipend	01-512-5144	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00			
Snow Removal	01-512-5145	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00			
Hazardous Waste	01-512-5290	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00			
FCSWMD Assess	01-512-5300	\$ 8,417.00	\$ 2,104.25			

Mosquito Control	01-512-5382	\$ 5,000.00	\$ .00			
BOH Operations	01-512-5701	\$13,500.00	\$ 5,963.75	HBST #H2402-129, 2/29/24 HBST #H2402-131, 2/29/24 HBST #H2402-132, 2/29/24	\$ 155.00 \$ 180.00 \$ 155.00	\$ 5,473.75
Health Sv Ops	01-512-5703	\$ 7,390.00	\$ 4,548.86	McKesson #21757873, 2/24/24	\$ 24.60	\$ 4,524.26
Refuse Gardens Ops	01-512-5708	\$35,050.00	\$ 16,327.85	Lodge Tire #G1-236428; 2/21/24 FCSWMD #24481, 3/4/24 FCSWMD #24482, 3/4/24 FCSWMD #24483, 3/4/24 FCSWMD #24484, 3/4/24	\$ 36.00 \$ 292.57 \$ 1,493.76 \$ 791.80 \$ 30.00	\$ 13,683.72
FRCOG Health Svcs	01-512-5788	\$ 5,797.00	\$ 1,480.00	FRCOG, #2175, 3/1/24	\$ 1,439.00	\$ 41.00
OPIOID FUNDS	83-512-4540-83139	\$90,000.00	\$ .00	Next disbursement - July 2024		

### Transfer Station:

- The Transfer Station logs were reviewed and read by Dan Poplawski.
- Jan Ameen sent an email attaching a table comparing calendar years 2022-2023 for trash, recycling, bulky waste, and scrap metal for Rowe. The recycling rate actually decreased from CY2022 (27.6%) compared to CY2023 (24.4%). It was a -3.2% decrease in change.
- Per Jan Ameen, the March MRF Recycling Expense is 33.48 with Rowe paying \$48.88..
- Herb said the cement post that was hit by the FCSWMD driver was used for an old key pad available for residents to access the Gardens. It is no longer used. Herb will check further and if it is something that can be taken out. If so, he will have that done.
- Jan Ameen said the district was awarded a \$22,000 grant for the Division of Industrial Accidents (DIA). She said the funds will be used for the 2-day OSHA training for new attendants. Rob has already attended the OSHA training but will be required to take the additional Bloodborne Pathogen Training. This training is a 2-hour recorded video training costing \$35 per person.
- Valley Fence, Florence MA sent the BOH a quote of \$5,218.00 to fix the fence enclosure around the Refuse Gardens. This was less than the \$6,017.00 quote from Hastie Fence. **A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to pay Valley Fence \$5,218.00 to fix the entire Refuse Gardens enclosure.** Member Kathy Atwood signed on behalf of the Board. The BOH agreed to purchase an 8x8 dog fence enclosure for the propane tanks vs. paying another \$3K for a chain link enclosure.

### RN Updates:

- **RESPIRATORY DASHBOARD INFO:**
  - **Week of 2/18-2/24:** 13.6 % of ER visits were for a Respiratory Illness (continue to trending slightly down- highest numbers were after Christmas)
  - **Covid:** There were 1,842 confirmed and probable cases of Covid (trending down) and 12 deaths (decreased) in the week of 2/18-2/24 in Massachusetts.
  - In Franklin County there have been 27 positive tests during week of 2/18-2/24 ). The wastewater surveillance of Covid has continued to decrease. Rowe: 1 positive test in the past month.
  - **Flu:** In Massachusetts week of 2/18-2/24: there were 3,091 confirmed cases of Flu. There was an 'Influenza Like Illness' (ILI) visit rate to health care providers was 4.35%. This is much higher than the average baseline (over past years) of 1.9%. **Severity of Influenza is considered HIGH right now in many parts of Massachusetts, including Franklin County.**
- CDC has changed all respiratory guidelines to 2 actions if you catch a respiratory illness: 1) Stay at home for 24 hours after you have been fever free (without meds) and your symptoms are improving. 2) Resume normal activities with added prevention strategies for 5 days such as mask, hand hygiene, outdoors, distancing, getting tested.
- Individual Stats: February: 12 days worked, 119 patients seen avg 10 patients/day.
- Opioid Task Force (OTF)- delivered the indoor Narcan box with 10 doses of Narcan - once redecoration is complete downstairs it will be installed...near the bathrooms? Or near the AED?
- Narcan Training with Maureen for Town Employees, School Employees and for interested residents will take place Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 at the Rowe School (or Town Hall if it does not work out at the school) This was in with my Goal post article in March.

- I am doing a 'March Madness- Mobility NOT Morbidity' training program with Deb Lively. This a collaboration between Health Services, COA, and the Park. It is a 4 week course with 2 sessions/week (hour long) and will have a focus on flexibility, movement, strength, etc. Programs will be tailored to fit the 'clients'- started March 4th- 8 residents participating.
- April 18th will be a Lifepath Info session during the COA 3rd Thursday Coffee morning- Trying to get more info out there to get more clients on board for their services.

**FRCOG** scheduled the following inspections for March 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in which Chair Herb will attend:

- RC&CC – 312 Zoar Road
- RC&CC – 22 Kings Highway

**System Pumping Records:**

The following system pumping records were received:

- Fife Brook – River Road
- RC&CC – 22 Kings Highway
- Bonnie Lee – 399 Zoar Road

**OPIOID Updates:**

- Kathy attended the OPIOID "Office Hours" meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2024. She reported there were no new/pertinent updates. Next scheduled meeting is March 14, 2024 from 2-3 p.m. She did find out the reasoning behind the substantial monies granted to Rowe were due to Rowe having a school. All agreed to subsidize surrounding towns in need.

**Water Testing:** Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing were read by Chair Herb reporting all with safe levels.

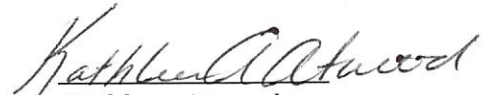
*Meeting Adjourned: 7:17 pm unanimously*

*Next meeting: March 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm*

Approved:

  
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 Herb Butzke, Chair

  
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 Daniel Poplawski

  
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 Kathleen Atwood