

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 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 and Christine Bailey, Admin Assistant. Deb Katz and Peter Columbus, (Representatives of Shantigar), Randy Crochier (FRCOG) and Joanne Semanie (BOS) joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

HEARING: Request of Shantigar Foundation: By roll call vote, Chair, Herb Butzke made a motion to open the hearing requested by Shantigar Foundation for a variance to 105 CMR 410, The State Sanitary Code, Chapter 2. Dan Poplawski seconded the motion (Herb Butzke-aye, Dan Poplawski-aye and Kathy Atwood-aye). Shantigar presented a request for a two-year variance to facilitate two Sani-cans on the grounds for use of 3 cabins during their summer weekend workshop programs. The three cabins are attached to the main house through a walkway. This variance would give the Foundation ample time to build a full bathroom facility closer to the cabins. The Board asked clarifying questions with Shantigar providing pictures of the layout of buildings and bathroom locations. Randy Crochier read pertinent facts clarifying any questions the Board had. Chair Herb thanked the Foundation for coming and by roll call vote, Chair, Herb Butzke made a motion to close the hearing requested by Shantigar Foundation for a variance to 105 CMR 410, The State Sanitary Code, Chapter 2. Dan Poplawski seconded the motion (Herb Butzke-aye, Dan Poplawski-aye and Kathy Atwood-aye). Deb Katz and Peter Columbus left the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

96 Ford Hill Road Inspection Update: Randy Crochier of FRCOG said the resident's sister could not be located. Through FRCOG, the Attorney General's Office obtained a warrant within the 7-day timeframe to board up the house. The BOH/Town will have 30 days to board up the house and have cleaned. Joanne Semanie asked how the Town budget for a clean-up, procedure and an approximate cost. Randy said the procedure would be for the BOH to have the doors padlocked and lower windows boarded. The Tax Collector would then put a lien on the property. The Town Lawyers (KP Law) would obtain a warrant for the work to proceed. All bills for payment would be directed to the Town Administrator. FRCOG would help where needed. Randy said this would be an estimate of approximately 15K and above.

Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) Neighborhood Renewal Program: Randy spoke of the Neighborhood Renewal Program through the AGO where the court appoints a receiver to bring the house up to specification. Since the house was in bankruptcy proceedings, the bank will be notified and has the option to do the work themselves. The Board agreed to have Randy begin the process for approval by setting up a meeting with the AGO Program Coordinator, Mia for one of our BOH May or June meetings. He encouraged all town officials be invited. If approved, Mia would work on clean-up/restoration through one of their contractors in the area that does this type of work. After the home is restored, it can be sold at market value with all bills first reimbursed to restore with proceeds going to the contractor. Randy will notify the Board when he has a firm date for this meeting.

Local Tobacco Sales Regulations: Randy provided guidelines from the State of Massachusetts in restricting the sale Tobacco products in each Town whereas; the Surgeon General found evidence that tobacco smoking causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac diseases, negative birth outcomes, irritations to the eyes, nose and throat. Randy Crochier of FRCOG will set-up a public hearing on June 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss/vote on obtaining and limiting sale permits; product and age restrictions and violations. The meeting will be advertised by FRCOG two consecutive weeks in the local paper (Greenfield Recorder) with the regulations and notice of hearing to be posted by the Town Clerk office.

Local Septic Regulations: Randy provided regulations through the State of Massachusetts for the Rowe BOH to enact for the purpose of protection of the citizens of the Town of Rowe and protection of the environment.

Minimum code, Title 5 regulations are incomplete or ambiguous in certain specifications and silent on other topics. The regulations will compliment, not conflict with current Title 5 regulations, to assure a more complete protection from sewage overflow, efficient administration, and management, as well as for additional guidance in the process of construction and repair of septic systems. Randy said this protects the homeowner and the life of the system is extended. FRCOG will set-up a public hearing along with the June 5, 2024, Tobacco Sale regulation hearing to discuss/vote on regulations the State is purposing for local septic systems. The meeting will also be advertised by FRCOG two weeks prior with the hearing beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Tobacco Sales Regulations hearing will begin at 6:10 p.m. followed by the Local Septic regulation hearing at 6:20 p.m. Randy Crochier and Joanne Semanie left the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

General Business: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the March 20, 2024 meeting.

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

Company	Invoice #	Date	Amount
Smart Sign – FY25 Dump Tags	SMT-699832	3/27/24	\$392.59
FCSWMD-Paper compactor rental	24578	4/3/24	50.00
FCSWMD-Bulky rolloff rental	24579	4/3/24	30.00
FCSWMD-Scrap Metal	24580	4/3/24	30.00
Josh Jones – Quote	028	3/21/24	75.00
Housatonic Basin-Water Testing	H2403-156	3/31/24	\$280.00
Housatonic Basin-Water Testing	H2403-158	3/31/24	\$250.00
Housatonic Basin-Water Testing	H2403-159	3/31/24	\$125.00
Housatonic Basin-Water Testing	H2403-160	3/31/24	\$280.00

FY24 Acct	Account #	7-1-23 Approp	Curr Bal (03-29-24)	Payroll/Payables	Amount	New Bal
Transfer Station Att	01-512-5140	\$16,607.00	\$ 4,343.31			
BOH Stipends	01-512-5141	\$ 4,938.00	\$ 1,234.50			
Clerk Wages	01-512-5142	\$12,880.00	\$ 3,039.90			
Town Nurse	01-512-5143	\$43,997.00	\$ 10,792.93			
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	\$.00			
Mosquito Control	01-512-5382	\$ 5,000.00	\$.00			
BOH Operations	01-512-5701	\$13,500.00	\$ 5,473.75	HBST, H2403-156, dtd 3/31/24 HBST, H2403-158, dtd 3/31/24 HBST, H2403-159, dtd 3/31/24 HBST, H2403,160, dtd 3/31/24	\$ 280.00 \$ 250.00 \$ 125.00 \$ 280.00	\$ 4,538.75
Health Sv Ops	01-512-5703	\$ 7,390.00	\$ 4,470.96			
Refuse Gardens Ops	01-512-5708	\$35,050.00	\$ 13,375.32	Smart Sign, SMT-699832, dtd 3/27/24 FCSWMD #24578, dtd 4/3/24 FCSWMD #24579, dtd 4/3/24 FCSWMD #24580, dtd 4/3/24 Josh Jones #28, dtd 3/21/24	\$ 392.59 \$ 50.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 30.00 \$ 75.00	\$ 12,797.73
FRCOG Health Svs	01-512-5788	\$ 5,797.00	\$ 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 reported the March MRF Recycling Expense at \$27.80 per ton
- A motion was made, seconded and approved to have the big Compactor maintained. Christine will contact Jan to set up and develop a schedule to alternate yearly between the two compactors.
- A motion was made, seconded and approved to have Jan Ameen, FCSWMD purchase a 6 ft. H x 5 ft. W x 10L Galvanized Chain Link with PC Frame Box Kit. The purchase will be tax exempt and free shipping to the Transfer Station. Christine to notify Jan and Rob who will construct.
- The Insurance Company approved the claim to pay \$800.00 to repair the concrete post damaged by one of the hauling drivers. Christine will pay Josh Jones the \$75 quote.

- Jan Ameen said the FY24 MRF Recycling Expense for March is \$27.80 per ton.
- The Finance Committee and the BOS is requesting more information/quotes on repaving of the Refuse Gardens. Christine will send an email to Lance Larned at DPW for quotes and Jan Ameen on assistance/grants.
- Christine posted the Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Recycling Day flyers at the Town Hall, Library and the Refuse Gardens.
- The Board discussed retaining the FY25 Dump Tag Price at \$25.00 if purchased before September 1, 2024. The price will increase to \$50.00 after September 1, 2024, unless you are a new Rowe resident.

Nursing Updates: Chair Herb read the attached Nursing Updates.

Well Applications: Lynde Well Drilling applied for a new well at 306 Zoar Road (Mark Duval). The property never had a well and only used a spring on an abutting property. The Lynde application attached the required documentation to the size and location of the well being within specifications. Christine will approve through the FRCOG application site.

BOH Updates:

- DPH sent Amended Camp Regulations. Chair Herb to speak with Randy on what involment the BOH has with the amended regulations and if they need to be shared with the Rowe Camp and Conference Center.
- Pan Am Railways sent their 2024 Yearly Operational Plan.

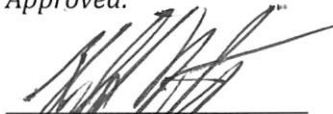
OPIOID Updates: The next Bi-weekly "Office Hours" meeting is scheduled for 4/11/2024 from 2-3pm.

New Business: A motion was made, seconded and approved to vote on the Variance request from the Shantigar Foundation at the May 1, 2024 meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:47 pm unanimously

Next meeting: May 1, 2024, at 6:00 pm


Approved:



 Herb Butzke, Chair



 Daniel Poplawski



 Kathleen Atwood

Nursing BOH Agenda April 10, 2024

- RESPIRATORY DASHBOARD INFO:
 - **Week of 3/24-3/30: 12.3 % of ER visits were for a Respiratory Illness (continue to trending slightly down)**
 - **Covid: There were 853 confirmed and probable cases of Covid (trending down) and 3 deaths (decreased) in the week of 3/24-3/30 in Massachusetts. In Franklin County there have been 15 positive tests during week of 3/24-3/30. The wastewater surveillance of Covid has continued to decrease. Rowe-0 positive tests in the past month.**
 - **Flu: In Massachusetts week of 3/24-3/30: there were 3,091 confirmed cases of Flu. There was an 'Influenza Like Illness' (ILI) visit rate to health care providers was 3.2% (trending down). This is higher than the average baseline for this time of year (over past years) of 1.9%. Severity of Influenza is considered Moderate right now in many parts of Mass, including Franklin County.**
- CDC has changed all respiratory guidelines (a few months ago) 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. The MASS DPH (a few weeks ago) has now also adopted these same guidelines- this is who we normally follow so everyone can follow these general public guidelines (except healthcare settings- including school health offices who need to follow the original 5 day stay at home protocol)
- Individual Stats: March: 10.5 days worked, 95 patients seen, avg 9 patients/day.
- Narcan Training with Maureen for Town Employees, School Employees and for interested residents took place Wednesday March 20th at 330 at the Rowe School gymnasium. There were 12 people in attendance- mostly Rowe school staff, who were educated about what Narcan is (and what it treats), how to use Narcan, how to recognize and opioid overdose, and what to do if an overdose is suspected. Each person who attended received some educational cards and a box of Narcan.
- The March Madness exercise program with Deb Lively was a success. It lasted 4 weeks in March (2X week for an hour) and there were 8 people who participated. Normally 3-4 people/day. It focused on flexibility, balance, strength training and endurance.
- April 18th will be a Lifepath Info session during the COA 3rd Thursday Coffee morning- I am sending an EDDM (every door direct main) flyer and will do robocall next week to promote. I am trying to get more info out there to get more clients on board for their services.