

# Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 1, 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, Town Nurse and Christine Bailey, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Herb Butzke at 6:01 p.m.

**General Business:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the April 10, 2024 meeting.

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

Company	Invoice #	Date	Amount
• National Grid- March-Apr Invoice	Apr 3, 2024	4/3/2024	\$149.38
• Wired West	3458035	4/12/2024	\$90.00
• USPS- EDDM Mailing for FY25 Tags	9248799	4/25/24	\$52.58
• McKesson Medical Surgical – RN supplies	21949634	4/11/2024	\$200.89
• Rachel Lewis- Chili for Lifepath event	4/18/24	4/16/24	\$30.08
• Rachel Lewis-Mileage for April	4/30/24	4/30/24	\$23.14
• FCSWMD-Propane enc **Listed for payment only (RDP funds)	24662	4/18/24	\$331.31

FY24 Acct	Account #	7-1-23 Approp	Curr Bal (4-12-24)	Payroll/Payables	Amount	New Bal
Transfer Station Att	01-512-5140	\$16,607.00	\$ 3,729.51			
BOH Stipends	01-512-5141	\$ 4,938.00	\$ 1,234.50			
Clerk Wages	01-512-5142	\$12,880.00	\$ 2,544.50			
Town Nurse	01-512-5143	\$43,997.00	\$ 9,046.21			
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	\$ 4,538.75			
Health Sv Ops	01-512-5703	\$ 7,390.00	\$ 4,470.96	McKesson #21949634 dtd 4/11/24 Rachel Lewis, LifePath 4/18/24 Rachel Lewis, Mileage April, 4/30/24	\$ 200.89 \$ 30.08 \$ 23.14	\$ 4,215.86
Refuse Gardens Ops	01-512-5708	\$35,050.00	\$ 12,797.73	Nat'l Grid, #March invoice, dtd 4/3/24 Wired West, #3458035, dtd 4/12/24 USPS-Tag Mailing #9248799, dtd 4/25/24	\$ 149.38 \$ 90.00 \$ 52.58	\$ 12,505.77
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:**

- Dan Poplawski read the Transfer Station Logs.
- Jan Ameen will set up maintenance for the large Compactor. She will then set up maintenance for the small compactor the following year. She will alternate thereafter. Dan suggested that we add \$750-\$800 to the Refuse Gardens Operations Account for this yearly maintenance. All agreed.
- Rob Beaumier picked up the propane tank enclosure at Home Depot that Jan Ameen ordered. Both Rob and Mike Denson assembled.
- Jan Ameen said the FY24 MRF Recycling Expense for April is \$25.24 per ton. This is another decrease from the prior month.
- Lance Larned received a quote from Warner Bros. of \$38,710.00 to repave the Refuse Gardens. Herb will speak with the Board of Selectmen.

- There has been a resident concern with the rodents at the dump, specifically racoons and rats. Herb will email Jan Ameen to get ideas on other dumps in the area and how they dispose/deter them. He will suggest Rob to wear a mask and outer protective wear when cleaning any animal waste.
- The OSHA Training should be attended by all attendants. Christine will email them to have them take the training.
- June 19, 2024 is Juneteenth Day. Being a Wednesday, both the Transfer Station and the Town Hall will be closed. Christine will put notice in the Goal Post as well as the Town website. At our next meeting (May 15, 2024) the Board will discuss/decide the canceling or rescheduling this meeting.

#### **Nursing Updates:**

#### **RESPIRATORY DASHBOARD INFO: LAST REPORTING**

- ***Week of 4/14-4/20- 10.3 % of ER visits were for a Respiratory Illness (continue to trend down)***  
***Covid: There were 645 confirmed and probable cases of Covid (trending down) in the week of 4/14-4/20 in Massachusetts and the severity is considered 'minimal'***  
***Flu: In Massachusetts week of 4/14-4/20: there were 843 confirmed cases of Flu. There was an 'Influenza Like Illness' (ILI) visit rate to health care providers was 2.14% (trending down). Severity of Influenza is considered LOW right now in most parts of Mass, including Franklin County.***
- Individual Stats: April: 9 days worked, 85 patients seen, avg 9.5 patients/day.
- Rachel said the Health Services Account (Nursing account) is going strong with over \$4k in account. She would like to purchase the following:
  - A portable A/C unit as the old one is broken. A motion was made and seconded to approve a new air conditioner unit for the RN office.
  - A rolling bag for home visits: A motion was made, seconded and approved by the Board for a rolling bag.
  - A new sandwich board to advertise BOH and COA events. A motion was made, seconded and approved to supply ½ of the funding (\$135.00) and have the COA supply the remainder (\$135.00). If the funding is not supplied by the COA, for the BOH to purchase fully but to be kept in her office and used solely for BOH events.
- April 18<sup>th</sup> was the Lifepath Info session during the COA 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Coffee morning. The event was a great success with 15 Rowe attendees and 2 Heath attendees. Lifepath supplied lots of great info their services and what they can offer to the Hilltowns.
- COA and Rachel will be starting a walking club in June- each Monday X1 hour of moderate walking for 4 weeks. This is a carry on from the exercise group started in March to help residents increase or sustain mobility and wellness. The Board suggested that all walkers sign a release form.
- Rachel will find out more information on the 'Tick Test Coupons' – apparently Rowe has done this in the past and has 'run out' recently per Phoebe Walker. Rowe subsidizes a tick test for residents so their ticks can be tested for various diseases. Rowe pays \$20 per coupon, the lab pays \$15 and then the resident pays \$15. (usually \$50 if paid out of pocket). The Board asked Rachel to find out more information and will reassess on whether to subsidize.
- Rachel received a request from a hospital colleague to shadow her during a shift to get exposure to the world of public health as a potential career option. The Board agreed this would be beneficial and suggested an "out-on-the-road day". Rachel agreed.
- Rachel submitted several daily vacation requests, which were approved by the Board

#### **Well Applications:**

The Board approved an application from Lynde Well Drilling for a new well at 306 Zoar Road, Mark Duval.

#### **Septic:**

The Board received a system pumping record at 14 Middletown Hill Road (Sokol)

**Shantigar Foundation:**

- The Board discussed the variance request from Shantigar Foundation. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the Rowe Board of Health approve a one year variance at the request of Shantigar Foundation, 63 Davenport Road, Rowe, MA to 105 CMR 410.110. (Herb- aye, Dan-aye, Kathy-aye).
  1. The determinating factor for a one year variance was to enforce the Foundation to correct the bathroom facilities next to the private cabins under provisions in 105 CMR 410.000. The Foundation has provided services for the past 10+ years under the current provision and it would be a manifest injustice to expect them to completely close the facility and rectify the situation.
  2. During this year of variance, the Foundation will work with the FRCOG Building Inspectors to ensure equal or greater protection of the health and safety of their occupants as provided by 105 CMR 410.000 before and during any construction.
  3. The date of the variance expiration will be April 30, 2025. At that time, the Foundation will have completed facility expectations per 105 CMR 410.000. If not completed, the Foundation will present to the Rowe Board of Health all updates within the timeframe granted of the one-year variance and if necessary the Board will consider extending the variance.

**BOH Updates:**

- Christine received an email from Randy Crochier saying the Septic and Tobacco hearings will be held at the June 5, 2024 BOH meeting.
- Herb Butzke read the Housatonic Basin Sampling & Testing which all tested in proper condition.
- National Grid sent out there yearly approved Operational Plan (YOP).
- Eurofins Environment Testing – Yearly Analytical Report

**OPIOID Updates:** The next Bi-weekly “Office Hours” meeting is scheduled for 5/9/2024 from 2-3pm.

**New Business:** N/A


*Meeting Adjourned: 6:56 pm unanimously*

*Next meeting: May 15, 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