Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 1993

Present: Ellen Foberg, Leonard Laffond, James O'Brien, Melissa Quinn

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 P.M.

Chairman Foberg reported that Deborah Lively has declined appointment as Animal Inspector. It was voted to appoint Carol Besgen as Animal Inspector, pending her acceptance of the position.

A request was received from Lynde Well Drilling Inc. of Brattleboro, VT for regulations regarding the drilling of wells in Rowe. Mrs. Quinn was directed to send a copy of the well drilling regulations.

Chairman Foberg reported that she had been contacted by Attorney Donna MacNicol regarding town nurse policy issues. Ms. MacNicol had been contacted Attorney Suzanne Davis (who is representing Dianne Rode) in regard to our request to Ms. Rode to provide us with time logs listing names of clients seen. It was agreed that Ms. Rode would compile a key code list for Chairman Foberg with a 4 digit code number along with the corresponding name, address, and phone number of each patient. Ms. Rode would submit bi-weekly time logs to the accounting officer listing the code number of patients seen and the date and duration of visit. Chairman Foberg could then check these time logs against the key code list for accountability purposes.

It was understood that for reasons of confidentiality the code number 0000 was to be used for both minors (under 18 years old) and HIV positive persons so that they would be unidentifiable.

In other matters concerning the town nurse, it was the unanimous consensus that the nurse adhere to the following:

1. Time logs are to be submitted bi-weekly and should include code numbers for all patients seen (both in her office and home visits), and date and length of each visit.

2. All patients seen in the town hall are to be seen in the nurse's office. This is for the comfort and confidentiality of the patients.

3. Home visits are to be limited to Rowe residents that are confined to their homes, and visits limited to 30 minutes.

4. The nurse's hours at the Town Hall are for Rowe residents only.

5. All medical files, including the nurse's computer, are to be locked to insure patient confidentiality.

6. Attorney MacNicol feels that the town nurse should not be responding to emergency medical calls because she is not a certified EMT. We will obtain more information on this issue, and in the meantime, the town nurse shall not respond to EMT calls.

The question of insurance liability was discussed. Sherry Tanner of Massamont Insurance Agency stated that the Town is covered relative to the town nurse's position under the "Package Liability Policy" with Great American Insurance Company. The nurse is covered personally under her own malpractice policy. It was noted that her malpractice policy covers Ms. Rode twenty-four hours a day at any location. Given this information, it was the consensus that the Town no longer reimburse the town nurse for her own personal medical malpractice insurance policy premium.

Ms. Davis raised the question with Ms. MacNicol of the supervision of the town nurse's medical procedures. Attorney MacNicol is very concerned about the lack of medical supervision over the town nurse's work, and feels that the Town is open to significant liability. This matter requires in-depth study and was taken under advisement.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa S. Quinn, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

Ellen L. Foberg

Ellen L. Foberg, Chairman

Leonard J. Laffond

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James E. O'Brien

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