

# HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

## MINUTES OF MEETING

April 26, 2017

Members Present: Giselle Perez, and David Smith (Chairman),

Others Present: Leslie Whelan (Health Agent) and Walter Row (appointee)

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Hamilton Senior Center by David Smith

**265 Cutler Road – Hearing for Variance Request Continued. Keeping of Animals Permit – Regulation 4.1. Well to Stable Set Back. 100’ Required, 5’ Requested.**

Leslie Whelan updated the Board. Lexi Chase had submitted certified mail receipts for abutter notification. The written request for the variance was received. Leslie Whelan asked if sufficient reasons had been given and if the applicant had shown that they would be able to provide the same degree of protection that the Regulation distance of 100’ would provide.

According to Lane Chase, the artesian well, which was 260’ deep with a 10” steel pipe, had been on the property for over 40’ years. It cost \$5,000 to redo, according to Mr. Chase. The well had been replaced with pvc piping, new water tanks, and a water softening system. The only original thing was the steel pipe. The water was pumped up into holding tanks. David Smith asked how the water was used, to which Mr. Lane responded it would be used to water the horses. There were only garden hoses and no faucets. Giselle Perez offered her concern regarding the increased risk for contamination from horses seeping into the well. Mr. Chase responded that the well was 15’ higher than the horse stalls because the stable was 6’ below ground level. The horse stalls were cement with rubber mats on them. Horse excrement would fall into shavings, which would be removed. The manure would be hauled away a mile down the road.

The lab sample for coliform bacteria level was zero. Lane Chase said he did water samples frequently. David Smith referred to the variance procedures, which indicated the Board could impose conditions to safeguard the water such as annual (when variance was renewed) collection of water samples for coliform bacteria and nitrates, to ensure water quality was acceptable. Lesley Whelan agreed. The variance would be issued in writing with the condition to have annual water testing completed.

Giselle Perez made motion to grant the variance with the conditions being set forth in the written acceptance.

Seconded by David Smith.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Lane Chase asked how many horses could be in a 20 stall barn. David Smith responded that the permit would specify the maximum number of horses. The Board had calculated how many

horses would be allowed and discussing mini horses, would delay the approval process. It was decided the Board would issue the permit with the allowed number under the current rules and when the permit renewed the following year, the Board would have specifications on the relationship between the number of mini horses versus full size horses.

**Chris Lee (Public Health Nurse). Amendment to the Tuberculosis (TB) Regulations, Postpartum Screening Home Visits, and an Increase in Hours.**

Tuberculosis (TB). Chris Lee gave a history of the 2014 active case of TB. The State did not require screening, it only recommended it. The disease was not easily contagious. One would need to breathe in contaminated droplets over a prolonged period of time. Ms. Lee noted there were three tests to determine exposure, blood sample, chest x-ray, or PPD.

The notification system included that any infectious disease would alert Chris Lee. A TB patient would take the medication for nine months. The lack of compliance created drug resistance to TB. There were 108 people contaminated during the Gordon Conwell situation. Ms. Lee was responsible to contact them and get a baseline. After 10 weeks, she tested again to determine if they were contaminated by exposure to the student. Three or four students were negative for the baseline test then positive on the second test.

A college environment was the perfect setting for TB. International students would have a high rates of TB. The seminary had missionaries go to homeless shelters and low healthcare settings, such as jails and locked institutions to mission. Due to the wealth of the Town, there was a lot of international travel as well. Chris Lee stated that she and Leslie Whelan worked diligently to make the amendment work for the Town.

Chris Lee said the first step would be education. The Gordon Conwell students feel that they would always show a positive result for TB because they were given BCG vaccine. When the students were tested and shown a positive response, they assumed it was due to the immunization. When, in fact, their vaccine efficacy had waned and they had acquired TB infection.

Chris Lee was proposing two clinics annually and having the seminary take an active role in their testing. Issues for the clinics being held at Ms. Lee's office at Town Hall included the lack of student transportation, language barrier, and students inability to navigate a new town. Gordon Conwell had difficulty funding clinics on campus. Ms. Lee was telling the school that they would hold two clinics per year.

David Smith said it was complicated but having clinics on campus would be a benefit. Gordon Conwell reminded Chris Lee that the current regulation did not require the current nurse, Sarah Gruher to perform screening for TB. In response to Mr. Smith's question if the school would comply, Ms. Lee responded that they would comply with the Regulation in writing.

Gizelle Perez suggested having a dual contract with a nurse who would take responsibility and the school being mandated to have a screening every year. If students didn't get screened, they could not enroll in courses. In response to Walter Row's question as to how many active cases existed currently, Chris Lee responded that as soon as a student was active, the student would go into a facility or isolation. There was a difference between latent TB infection, blood infection, and TB disease. Ms. Lee thought it was highly likely that a good number of students were latent. A student was not infectious when latent. North Shore Pulmonary Clinic was considered the specialist. One to two non-infectious students were working with doctors in town. The base drug must be taken for nine months, but one student only took it for 30 days. Another drug would be taken for four months twice a day.

A case of measles (exposure) had been reported at Pingree from a French student.

Child Abuse Prevention Chris Lee noted that child abuse might happen due to intolerance of toilet training due to the cost of diapers. One program was to collect diapers to donate to potential abusive families.

ALICE Evacuation Plan. According to Chris Lee, hiding as a form of protecting oneself was antiquated and she was working with the school system to update the procedures. Giselle Perez thought it was a great idea because of the way the information was delivered, which was similar to a fire drill.

Postpartum Visiting Program. Chris Lee described the visiting program and noted that some new mothers became depressed six to eight weeks after coming home from a birth. Ms. Lee was looking to increase hours to devote to the program as there were seven births each month. The program was for psycho-social assessment to determine how the new mother felt about family/community connections and depression. Mothers currently left a hospital 48 hours after a vaginal birth. Some mothers might be older and some might have husbands returning to work after two weeks. Ms. Lee wanted to connect these women with different services, other mothers, or groups with the same issues. In Hamilton, there was a new mothers group as well as walking groups.

The Family Wellness Committee's charge was to improve the overall wellness of children k-2. Chris Lee would have more information in the future.

Mary Beth Lawton (COA Director) had approached Chris Lee regarding dental polishing. A dentist and hygienist would conduct the procedure. There would be no water suction, spitting, scaling, flossing, or exam. It would not be a full dental exam. Ms. Lee would update the Board.

Chris Lee was hoping to increase her hours to 14 hours a week. Giselle Perez stated that the post-partum program was great. Ms. Lee wanted to tailor a program to connect mothers to different types of therapists and counselors. Ms. Lee noted the Jewish Family and Children's

Center. Ms. Lee said other communities such as Gloucester, Peabody, Beverly, and Newburyport were involved. Ms. Lee and Leslie Whalen agreed to offer a brochure as abuse was difficult to discuss with a spouse in the room.

Funding for increased hours would not be available until July 1, 2018. David Smith suggested adjusting the budget for Fall Town Meeting. The Board would discuss at the next meeting.

Motion made to amend the Tuberculosis Risk Assessment Testing Regulation for schools and colleges in Hamilton per this proposal by David Smith.

Giselle Perez seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The increase in hours required follow up action items. Leslie Whalen would talk to Michael Lombardo to find out if there was an opportunity.

The visiting partnership budget through Addison Gilbert hospital was \$18,000 but Chris Lee did not feel that there was a need to provide baby boxes. Funding would go to printed material.

Giselle Perez made a motion to increase the hours of the public health nurse starting either in the fall of 2017 or in the spring of 2018, earlier preferably if the budget allowed.

David Smith seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Chris Lee said that she would deliver the New Regulation to Gordon Conwell and explain it was in force and effect. Leslie Whelan would publish a summary in the paper, send a copy to DEP, and send a cover letter describing the Regulations to the schools. Different letters would be sent to different schools based on the impact. The letter would go to Administration and school nurses. The letter would only apply to the Hamilton school district, but it was noted that Wenham might want to adopt the amendment. Administration could determine what would happen for Wenham. Ms. Whelan had an obligation to notify the schools in writing to comply with the Regulation.

Leslie Whelan suggested billing the revolving fund for a flu clinic or TB clinic and use Chris Lee's regular hours for post-partum visits.

### **Hearing to Amend Septic Regulations to Include Covers, Fill, and Licenses.**

The proposed definition changes for light, medium, and heavy duty covers were discussed. The weight reflected the cover rather than the weight of rim and cover, which were too high, according to Leslie Whalen.

The next change included removing a section that was meant to be removed in the prior revision. Sand fill requirement was approved years ago. Sand fill would be more porous sand than Title 5

sand causing premature failure. Backfill of Title 5 clay soils were prohibited. Leslie Whelan noted that too much clay restricted the air flow to keep the bacteria oxygenated. Clay and class III were prohibited, unless the leaching field was designed for class III.

Another change was regarding operation and maintenance providers. The Board proposed some standards aligned to the policy that already existed. For septic systems, which were considered alternative or innovative and treatment devices, there would be a requirement for a class II wastewater treatment operator. The Town would license them because the Board of Health was not always notified and needed to find them. As incentive to being licensed, the operator would not be able to do work unless the Health Department received a report. Title 5 inspectors would include certain things in their report as defined by Leslie Whelan or their license would be pulled.

The Board discussed the reasons as being the improvement of public health or safety, the ability to increase the lifespan of a system, and making the enforcement of the Regulations and Title 5 easier.

David Smith made motion that the Board adopt the Regulations.

Giselle Perez seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### **Discussion – Health Agent Update.**

Leslie Whelan announced that she had issued Essex Septic a warning letter and in response, the Health Department received a handful of pump reports within the 14 days. His fine would have been \$4,400 at \$10 a day per report. Some reports were from April and March and about half were from January and February.

Concerned about cars left running, Leslie Whelan distributed a flyer produced by DEP. Walter Row suggested sending the flyer out in the excise tax bill. Ms. Whelan wanted to do more positive work. DEP had a kit for idle free zones and provided signs for free. It was suggested to add the signs at the Shoppes of Hamilton Crossing. David Smith suggested having a cooperative outreach to the school board. Giselle Perez suggested starting education in kindergarten.

Giselle Perez requested having more public health promotion including fairs for education or a table as a vendor at the Two Town Fourth celebration and Pumpkinfest. Walter Row wanted to sample how many people brought in their own bags to Crosbies. David Smith thought it could be determined by the plastic chip that was given when a customer brought in their own bag, which they deposited into a charity jar. The answer could be published in the Chronicle.

Leslie Whelan noted the FDA assessment was completed. Ms. Whelan applied for the \$2,500 grant to review the Town's food program as compared to nine voluntary program standards. One standard was in regard to how many hours of training was provided for inspectors. Another

standard was having a scientifically based set of rules, which Hamilton did. Hamilton had not met eight out of nine standards. The next step would be to select one standard and focus on it. Standard 3 would be to look at each food establishment and compare its food safety risk factors. There would be a risk assessment, which would determine how many health visits would be necessary, based on criteria. In October, there would be a new round of funding. It was asked how the Board would want to come into compliance with standard 3. The Board would come up with ideas, ask for funding, then spend the money to do more work.

Walter Row discussed the safety of schools, to which Chris Lee added that she had attended training as a public health nurse, including ALICE, which she brought to the police department. It was noted by Gizelle Perez that all schools were locked. Buker had an active shooter policy but Winthrop did not.

**Review – Minutes dates March 22, 2017.**

Motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2017 made by David Smith.

Giselle Perez seconded.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Adjournment**

Motion made by David Smith to adjourn at 8:54 pm

Seconded by Gizelle Perez.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.