



TOWN OF TISBURY

Office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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MEETING MINUTES – March 10, 2020 – 4:00 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) met on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at the Tisbury Town Hall Annex.

Chairman Pratt called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Jeff Pratt and Dr. Michael Loberg, Clerk. Ms. Maura Valley, Health Agent, Ms. Catie Blake, Assistant Health Agent, and Valerie Soushek, Administrative Secretary, were also in attendance.

Vice-Chairman Malcolm Boyd was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

4:30 PM - Removal of Solid Waste Site Assignment at Assessor's Parcel 22-A-11

Selectpersons Jeff Kristal and Melinda Loberg, and Jay Grande, Town Administrator, were in attendance for the hearing.

Ms. Valley explained that the subject parcel was originally site assigned for composting and the bailing of recyclables in association with landfill programs. The parcel was never used for such designations and recently there have been inquiries from Town officials and the planning board about de-site assigning the land for possible future development, i.e. municipal purposes, parking, etc.

Ms. Valley inquired with Doug Coffey, of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who confirmed that a solid waste permit would not be required for future development; however, the soils would need to be tested and evaluated to ensure there is no migration of gases. Based on this information, Ms. Valley confirmed her support of the de-site assignment and the transfer of stewardship from the BOH to the Town Administrator, if approved.

If a favorable vote is achieved today, the BOH will submit documentation confirming the public hearing vote to the DEP, who will approve or deny the request.

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The public hearing was closed, and the commissioners voted to approve the de-site-assignment.

Ms. Valley also provided the contract amendment for reducing landfill monitoring, from Wright-Pierce. The commissioners voted to accept the contract for review.

HEALTH AGENT OPERATIONAL UPDATE

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Ms. Valley reported that several discussions and meetings have been held with public health emergency managers, representatives from the hospital, county and schools on the Island. The reporting chain has been established and communicated on the Town website. A direct link to the Department of Public Health website, which is updated daily at 4 PM, has been included.

More cases have been reported at the State level. Most of the cases have been linked to a recent Biogen Company conference. Public gatherings are now being cancelled.

Conversations have been held with Island school representatives to discuss who should be allowed to attend classes and when the school should be closed for sanitization.

Town department managers have been contacted and asked to identify essential functions in preparation for social distancing when it is required.

There are several families on the Island who travelled to Europe recently. They are in self-isolation.

There are no known or suspected COVID-19 cases on the Island, to date. Mr. Russ Hartenstein, the acting public information officer is updating the local press outlets with basic protocols for quarantining and testing. The protocols are also outlined in MV Hospital's fact sheet, which is posted on the Town website.

Questions regarding the postponement of the upcoming Town meeting may need to be addressed at some point in the future.

The Steamship Authority has been diligent at sanitizing the ferries.

As soon as a patient is approved for COVID-19 testing, the Department of Public Health logs the case in a database for disease surveillance (MAVEN) as being under investigation. The local board of health is notified for follow-up with the patient and any exposed parties.

Martha's Vineyard Hospital believes they may run out of gowns and masks when there is an outbreak on the Island. Ms. Valley will be researching the possibility of obtaining supplies, i.e., masks and gowns, from the strategic national stockpile for the hospital.

Department of Public Health (DPH) Shared Service Grant

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Ms. Valley reported that the Town has applied for a shared service grant from the DPH. The application was signed by Jeff Pratt, BOH Chairman, and Town Administrator Grande.

A representative from Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) assisted with the writing of the grant and he believes the application will be approved.

Aquinnah is the only town that has opted out of signing the grant application.

Ms. Valley stated that this process could lay the groundwork for efforts at regionalizing BOH roles.

If approved, the grant will provide funding for the creation of an Island-wide environmental health representative to manage mosquito and tick issues. The position is currently held by Mr. Richard Johnson, who is planning to retire.

The County will have overall jurisdiction of the proposed program. Mr. Matt Poole, Edgartown Health Agent, will be the program manager.

ASSISTANT HEALTH AGENT OPERATIONAL UPDATE – N/A

DISPOSAL WORKS APPLICATIONS (DWAs) APPROVED BY THE
COMMISSIONERS

4239 Abigail Canfield – 284 Herring Creek Rd. / 33-A-6 – Approved.
(Ms. Valley confirmed that the property owners are not interested in installing a NitROE system).

NEW BUSINESS

Well Application – Thomas Tate / 101 Passamaquoddy Avenue / 66-A-5 – Approved.
Rabies Vaccine Waiver – “Sasha” & “Alice” Lau – Approved.
Rabies Vaccine Waiver – “Willoughby” Hadley – Approved.
Rabies Vaccine Waiver – “O B” Rogers – Approved.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

BILLS AND PERMITS FOR APPROVAL

Commissioner Loberg declined to sign an invoice for Wright-Pierce. Testing documentation justifying the charge was requested.

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<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Budget Category</u>	<u>Total Due</u>
Valerie Soushek	Postage	\$ 114.75
Maura Valley	Training/travel	\$ 171.98
MV Community Service	Public health services	\$ 441.00
TOTAL		\$ 727.73

With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated March 10, 2020, as presented.

Date: 4/7/20

Signed: Jeff Pratt

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