

TOWN OF TISBURY

office of

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 666, 66 High Point Lane

Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

Telephone (508) 696-4290

Fax (508) 696-7341

MEETING MINUTES – January 12, 2021 – 4:00 PM

The Tisbury Board of Health (BOH) held a meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 4:00 PM.

Due to ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom -- Meeting ID: 977 3625 3838; Passcode: 354594

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

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

Jeff Kristal, Selectman, and Jay Grande, Town Administrator, joined the meeting.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- FY 2022 Budget

Ms. Valley provided a copy of a budget draft for FY 2022. Payroll estimates for union employees may change due to contract updates. Overall, spending has been low due to office closure. Grant monies covered COVID-19 and contact tracing; however, as of 12/31/2021, access to the Cares Act and MAHB grants will no longer be available. More grant monies could be available if needed and will be addressed with the commissioners as required. No extra budget was included in the public health services for 2022 with the COVID vaccine's availability.

Ms. Valley clarified that water testing funds are used for beach water testing, not denitrification systems. The money for testing (pilot) denitrification systems is budgeted with a separate warrant article, and unused funds continue to be available from year to year.

The deadline for submitting the budget is Friday, January 22, 2021, per Jay Grande and Jeff Kristal.

The commissioners voted to approve the proposed budget for FY 2022.

- Annual Report

Ms. Valley postponed review of the annual report narrative.

- COVID 19 updates

Ms. Valley reported that the Island is experiencing a surge of cases among families and household groups. Text messages are being sent to positive patients to initiate an immediate connection and provide them with information about isolation in Portuguese and English. The assigned contact tracer will follow up with the case and close contacts. Schools are monitored closely and notified of positive students as identified.

School testing started last week, including 532 teachers, all of whom were negative for COVID. Weekly testing at approximately 900 per week will begin soon.

Health agents are meeting regularly with hospital representatives about a vaccination program. The hospital will start vaccinating first responders and harbormasters according to the State's definition of Phase 1 this Friday.

A request for 275 additional doses for other public health practitioners, including dentists, private practices, and school nurses, has been submitted to the State.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nitrogen regulations

Ms. Valley provided proposed revisions to the current Nitrogen regulations. As discussed at previous meetings, she changed the maximum nitrogen discharge level, triggers for requiring an advanced treatment system, and financial waiver considerations.

The commissioners will review the draft and forward their comments to Ms. Valley. In the meantime, she will continue to discuss the regulations with the Oak Bluffs health agent and commissioners for their consideration since the Lagoon is a shared water body.

DISPOSAL WORKS APPLICATIONS

DWA 4295 Brian & Michele Lawlor / 37-A-5 – Approval postponed for further review with George Sourati about using a NitROE system.

DWA 4296 Richard Townes / 15-A-4 – Postponed pending receipt of a corrected plan from Vineyard Land Surveying.

DWA 4298 Darren Lobdell / 44-A-1.1 – Approval postponed for further review with Reid Silva about using a NitROE system.

DWA 4299 Geoffrey White / 31-A-6.1 – Approved

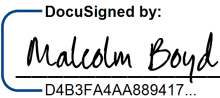
With no further business to conduct, the Board of Health commissioners adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Soushek
Administrative Secretary

Document(s)

The Board of Health commissioners accept the meeting minutes, dated January 12, 2021, as presented.

Date: _____ Signed:  _____
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