



Town of Mattapoisett Board of Health

16 Main Street
P.O Box 434
Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Carmelo Nicolosi
Board Member

Russell Bailey
Board Member

Kenneth Dawicki
Board Member

MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 25, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Zoom Meeting: In person at Mattapoisett Council on Aging

ZOOM

Topic: Mattapoisett Board of Health

Time: Aug 25, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 816 7776 4135

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BOARD PRESENT: Carmelo Nicolosi, Russell Bailey, Ken Dawicki

Present at location: Marianne DeCosta, Gabby Almeida, Dan White, Emily Field

Virtual Participants: Marilou @ Wanderer

NOTES

1) Discussion with Mattapoisett Public Health Nurse regarding Covid-19.

There are 14 active cases-due to the Delta variant. 60%/40% vaccinated. Some children who are unvaccinated. There is discussion by the School Board about whether to require masks at school at school opening and revising after October 1st. Mattapoisett has 75% of people vaccinated. With the original SARS Covid virus 2-3 people exposed tested positive. With the Delta Variant it is 5-9 people exposed test positive. With the return to sports those students who have had the virus are required to get clearance from their pediatrician.

KD-asked if the vaccinated people are getting less sick than non-vaccinated people

EF- stated that yes, that is the case. However even though they recover quicker they can still transmit the virus, but they have let down their guard because they are vaccinated.

KD- he will not support mandating mask wearing in the schools. He feels it should be the parents right to decide.

EF- Stated that at school with the young people it is still transmittable, and if as a community we are asked to mask up, we should do it. If the school board decides to require masks, they will be looking for support from the BOH

KD- He would not recommend as a member of the board

EF- stated that it is easier to open the schools requiring a mask, she is concerned about the disruption.

KD – he said that the determination should be by the parents

EF- the state commission will decide if there is going to be a state mandate, and the school department will have to go by that. Or, if not, they will decide for the opening of school. Their meeting is on Monday night.

CN-stated that he would support the mask mandate because of the vulnerable children. When Russell Bailey gets to the meeting, they will ask his opinion. Hopefully the state will step in and decide. Wareham and Fairhaven will require masks.

EF- stated that the school physicians support the masks. As far as contact tracing goes, it is taking some time.

CN- asked if when adolescents test positive, is there more contact tracing?

EF-yes, they have just reinstated the Contact Tracing Collaborative. She can keep in touch with the school nurses to keep abreast of the cases.

Russell Bailey entered the meeting, and Carmelo Nicolosi suggested that he get a short update.

CN-He told RB that the school will be voting on whether to institute the mask mandate for the start of school. The school committee asked for the BOH's support. Ken supports the parents right to choose, and CN chooses to support the mask mandate.

RB- he thinks that he would defer the decision to the state that they be required until October 1st. He stated that he is not in favor of telling people what to do against their own will but would like to know how many kids are in the hospital or have died.

EF- stated that she cannot speak to the statistics but that the Delta Variant is more transmittable, and that a mask is an effective tool to mitigate the virus.

RB- He would defer to the state

EF- There are also immunocompromised children and adults in the classrooms.

KD- He agrees that the immunocompromised should be wearing masks, but it is the parents decision. His wife is an ADA Certified caregiver in the schools and her student wears a mask for his protection.

CN-asked if anyone else had anything to add

None at this time.

Questions from Public? None

Questions from Board? None

2) Discussion on Health Agent position applicants.

Chairman Nicolosi asked the Board if they had a chance to review all the resumes, and they have done so. He stated that one stands out from the others. The applicant was interviewed when the position was open in 2019. Chairman Nicolosi asked if they were prepared to vote.

KD- stated that he is prepared to make a decision based on resumes.

RB- agreed

KD mentioned that one resume was received but not considered because it was received after the August 11th cutoff. He stated that he was strongly leaning toward one of the applicants as she has all of the qualifications for the position and the right personality.

RB- added that she is a local person with expertise in the field.

Chairman Nicolosi stated that this applicant has been a Health Agent in the city of New Bedford since 2014 and has strong credentials on several levels. If Board voted for her he can prepare a letter. The salary range is 68,000-72,000.

KD- stated that he thinks she should be offered \$70,000. As she has experience.

RB- agreed

Chairman Nicolosi said he would prepare a letter and give her a call. He would also prepare a letter to be sent to the other candidates.

Ken Dawicki made a Motion to offer Gail Joseph the position as Health Agent at a salary of \$70,000 per year. Motion seconded by Russell Bailey. Voted in the affirmative. (3-0-0)

Chairman Nicolosi stated that he suspected that she would need the customary 2 week notice to her current employer. It was agreed that she be offered the opportunity to work part-time during that 2 week if she wants to get her feet wet.

KD- stated that he wanted to thank Chairman Nicolosi for all of the extra work that he has done in the interim.

Chairman Nicolosi stated that he couldn't have done it without the help of the two secretaries and Bob Buker and Dave Flaherty as inspectors, and it will be nice to have someone back in the office.

RB-stated that the inspectors should be sent a letter thanking them for their help.

Questions from Public? None

Questions from Board? None

Discussion of Transfer Station Attendant- Chairman Nicolosi stated that there has been on applicant. He is very qualified and is willing to get his hoisters license. He is retired and has done some work for Chairman Nicolosi. Does the Board want to vote to hire? Yes, was the consensus.

Ken Dawicki made a Motion to offer Kevin Murray the position of station attendant at the transfer Station. The motion was seconded by Russell Bailey. Voted in the affirmative. (3-0-0)

Questions from Public? None

Questions from Board? None

New Business:

Chairman Nicolosi stated that there has been a report of a septic failure at 11 ½ Industrial Drive. The issue is bubbling raw sewage. Chairman Nicolosi added the secretary to look up the folder and see if there is a Title V from when the building was sold.

KD- stated the building is over 30 years old

Chairman Nicolosi pointed out that Mahoney's put sewer in up there with stubs provided and in order to tie in they will have to pay a fee.

RB- stated that they should be connected to sewer

CN- stated that they will have the Town Counsel draft a letter as we may anticipate some resistance. It should say that they should tie into the sewer. Because if sewer is available, they should tie in.

RB- getting Town counsel to write the letter is critical.

KD- It should be done within 90 days as it is a health issue.

RB- They should update on when it's going to happen, and the letter should request a response within 2 weeks. And they should continue to monitor and pump regularly.

CN- He will talk to Town Administrator to send the letter certified mail and have a response within 14 days of receipt of the Town Counsel's letter. Fines could be issued for non-compliance.

KD- The fine schedule to be determined.

CN- This could contaminate their product as this is a food preparation company. Southcoast Farms sold on 2-25-20 to Produce LLC Dairyland

KD- Asked Chairman Nicolosi how he found out about the issue.

CN- stated that he got a call

Questions from Public? none

Questions from Board? None

Approve meeting minutes from June 23th, 2021

CN- noted that this will have to be done on the next Agenda as they were not mailed to the Board.

1) Set tentative date for next meeting and adjourn.

KD- He mentioned that he is now working in Dartmouth and has Thursdays off. So can you make the meeting on Thursday.

CN- set a tentative date for September 23, 2021.

Questions from Public? Marilou Newell from the Wander clarified that the Agent job is being offered to Gail Joseph and the Transfer Station Attendant job is being offered to Kevin Murray.

Questions from Board? None

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn was made at 11:11 am by Ken Dawicki
Seconded by Russell Bailey. Voted in the affirmative. (3-0-0)

Carmelo Nicolosi _____

Kenneth Dawicki _____

Russell Bailey _____