



# Town of Boxford

## Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

November 17, 2021

**NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE - REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY**

**6:30PM**

**Virtual Participation Only**

**This meeting will be audio and video recorded**

**To View: FIOS #39; Comcast #22; BCAT Tv website**

**For Directions to Participate via Zoom**

**ZOOM Meeting**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83206054054?pwd=RDRPSjVqSHhiMTZ5QUlVKzJkN25Bdz09>

**ID: 832 0605 4054**

**Passcode: 760396**

**Present:** Richard Taylor, Richard Fahrner, Alex Constan, Kendell Longo, Rhonda Hodge, Lance Cluster, Kristin Kwiatek, George O'Neill, Richard O'Brien, Brian Gregory, Barbara Jessel, Chuck Costello, Bob Hazelwood, Matt Coogan, Susan Inman

Meeting Opened at 6:30 by D. Taylor

Roll call indicated that the following members of the Board of Health were present remotely: D. Taylor, R. Fahrner, A. Constan, H. Forand, R. Hodge

## Minutes

Minutes were reviewed from the October 20, 2021 meeting. A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** to accept the minutes, **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

## Bills

**D. Taylor** reviewed with the Board the October bills payable totaling \$66,659.28. A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** to accept the total bills of \$66,659.28 **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

## Trash Update

The Board discussed imposing a fine on Waste Management for a missed trash pick-up. A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** that the penalty assessment to Waste Management for missing the pick-up at 6 Mill Road on November 2, 2021 to be tabled until the next Board of Health meeting **seconded** by **H. Forand**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote. **A. Constan** informed the Board that Waste Management has two different centers that handle trash barrels versus dumpsters and if there is an overflow in an area that has both barrels and dumpsters that we have to be specific in order for them to send the right truck.

## Water Regulation: Utility Pole Amendment

**D. Taylor** stated to the Board that he would like to see the actual location of the wells that are located within 100 feet from the placement of a new or replaced utility pole. The amendment would be that the well is identified and it is to be shown on the map. A hearing is not needed for this amendment just a majority from the Board. A **motion** was made by **A. Constan** to accept the amended text in red on locating all private wells within 100 feet of any new or replacement utility pole in Chapter 202 of the Private Water Supply Regulations sub section 202-6 **seconded** by **R. Fahrner**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

## WWTP Regulation Fee

The Board discussed the fee for the new Waste Water Treatment Plant Regulation. The current fee for new disposal system construction is \$400.00. **R. Fahrner** stated that the fee is to offset administrative costs. **D. Taylor** said that this has not been done before and **K. Longo** stated the Town could collect a fee when the permit is pulled for the installation because there will be a lot of inspections. A **motion** was made by **R. Fahrner** to establish the Waste Water Treatment Plant Regulation fee at \$400.00, **seconded** by **A. Constan**. Approved **unanimously** by a roll call vote.

## COVID Discussion

D. Taylor stated that COVID case numbers have been increasing since June 2021. Boxford and Topsfield have started to plateau. Middleton and Georgetown are very high. Hospitalizations as of last week showed 39 % were fully vaccinated. With the Delta variant, herd immunity does not apply and everyone is susceptible. D. Taylor stated that 50% of fully vaccinated people who were re- infected end up with long COVID. D. Taylor said there are activities in Town that are indoors and that the mask mandate should stay in effect. A. Constan mentioned the event with Santa and photos being taken. H. Forand stated that there could be a creative way to take photos with Santa so not to eliminate it. A. Constan said the photos being taken by him would happen in a safe manner. The Board discussed the Grand illumination event. D. Taylor stated the outdoor event with people spaced apart is the best idea. The Board also agreed to keep the mask order in place.

## 10 Elm Street Soil Import

D. Taylor informed the Board that the Permanent Building Committee met with Kendell, D. Taylor, A. Constan, and the Owner Project Manager of the 10 Elm to discuss the soil movement on the site without a permit which violated the Health Board Regulation. An application was submitted after the job was shut down stating the site, the approximate fill, the origin and who delivered it. The application also included an analysis of the fill with more testing is to be done. A. Constan commented that the list of testing on the soil was very extensive and R. Fahrner was in agreement. A motion was made by R. Fahrner that the major earth filling permit for 10 Elm Street under the Boxford Board of Health Regulation 205-5 be approved seconded by A. Constan. Approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

## Director's Report

There will be two pediatric COVID vaccination clinics at Masconomet Highschool in the cafeteria scheduled for November 20, 2021 and December 11, 2021 8:00-10:00am for the Tri- Town. The registration link and dates for the clinics are posted on the Town's website. There will also be a COVID booster clinic for the Boxford Police, Fire, and DPW employees at the East Fire Station on November 22, 2021 from 9:00-11:00am. The Flu Clinic held at the COA administered 40 vaccinations. D. Taylor stated The National Academy of Medicine released a report and warning that if there is a new influenza mutation that can start an epidemic like the 1918 Epidemic there could be 50 to 100 million deaths worldwide. R. Fahrner commented on vast improvement of information sharing such as notification of changes and hospital numbers.

## Other Business

D. Taylor mentioned the email received from R. Hodge on mental illness and said the Board should start a discussion working with students and seniors in town. R. Hodge spoke on the current mental health crisis. R. Hodge said throughout most of Massachusetts and Southern New

Hampshire all the hospitals are essentially full. A couple weeks ago at Children's Hospital there were about 72 patients waiting for psychiatric beds. There are currently a lot of pediatric hospitalizations and there is not enough room. **R. Hodge** stated that she would like to reach out to Masconomet as she currently works with other local school's guidance counselors and talks to parents about what the mental illness looks like. There are so many more patients in emergency rooms for mental illness post COVID. **R. Fahrner** mentioned the Tri-Town Council and that they have a whole host of referrals they can provide to parents. **D. Taylor** suggested going directly into the schools because they are dealing with it day to day. **A. Constan** stated that the Board could possibly collaborate and leverage a few groups in town that are already trying to work toward this, one being the Tri-Town Council that has mental health resources on their website. **R. Hodge** said she would reach out to the superintendents and introduce herself. **H. Forand** stated it would be a great first step to get involved. The Board was in agreement.

#### **Adjourn 8:15pm**

With no further business, on a **motion** made by **H. Forand** seconded by **A. Constan**, the Board of Health voted **unanimously** with a roll call vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kristin Kwiatek**  
Minutes Secretary