

Westhampton Board of Health
Minutes to Meeting of
2/06/2020

Present: Robbie Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Tom Martin (TM).

To Order at 4:02

- 1) DB moves to approve minutes to 12/12/2019 meeting as written with TM seconding and the motion passing unanimously.
- 2) RA notes follow up to filing session in Jan 2020 that backlog of filing paperwork has been taken care of and noting there is some stuff she doesn't know quite how to file. TM notes that is something we can go over at another session. TM and RA to coordinate that. TM notes he is trying to get other Boards of Health in the Foothills Health District to take up some of the office work that comes to their Towns.
- 3) TM reports that Westhampton's share to the Foothills Health District given the proposed budget (up 5% from last year) will be \$22,538. An increase of \$1081. From last year). TM to report this number to Finance Committee.
- 4) DB reports that HRMC assessments for the Town has also gone up around \$600 from last year. DB to report this number to Finance Committee. DB notes that he has already submitted a BOH budget to the Finance Committee for level funded \$500. Some discussion an agreement that the Ageing in Place Initiative begun may be able to use some funds to sponsor some nursing visits in Town on a trial basis in the next year. TM to ask for \$1000 for possible pilot/test program.
- 5) DB reports that Transfer Station will be switching to Dual Stream next fiscal year and that the extra container needed for this move is on order. Estimated time of transfer over is 7/1/2020. DB notes as well that an extension to MRF contracts was given to 2/28/2020 due to reworking of contract language. DB requests that Bill Jablonski (JB) be officially appointed to HRMC board representative for Westhampton, noting as well that BJ has gone to last two HRMC meetings. DB will continue to rep for HRMC as long as he is on the BOH. Given we are required to have 2 reps it is suggested that BJ takes TM's place as rep. TM would continue to rep for Foothills breaking up the workload of the Board. Suggestion moves to a motion that passes unanimously. TM to write to Select board to request this change.
- 6) DB moves not write a letter of support to the Governor to dissuade state permitting for the construction of natural gas infrastructure with TM seconding. Discussion of the presentation of Stephen Jones presentation and materials presented. Discussion of the political nature of the request in relation to the BOH's public health and service duties and questions raised about the tie-in to those duties. Motion carries.
- 7) Town administrator (TA) before the Board to status of 225 NW Rd. Property has been decreed to the Town by the District Court and Selectboard will hold an executive session on Monday the 10th at 6pm to review status of the property. Board decides it will attend the meeting on the 10th.

- 8) TM discusses briefly with TA the email requirements of the BOH. TM notes that very little email comes to him through the Comcast email that the Town set up for the BOH and that currently the Foothills Health District is paying for email services and archiving services through the Town of Williamsburg which is also the home base office of our Foothills Health Agent. TM wants all Westhampton BOH emails to be routed through the Foothills email where things emails can be properly archived. TA notes that the Comcast email now used does not have reliable archiving without specific funding and the BOH cannot get an email account until it obtains a Town owner computer. TM to abandon Comcast account after going through it one last time.
- 9) RA updates Board on Ageing in Place work. RA notes initial work with a small group of Westhampton residents calling itself Westhampton Connects (WC) with a variety of concerns in the community it wants to address somehow including work with seniors, persons with disabilities, new mothers and folk who are socially isolated for various reasons. RA notes that the suggestion has been made to her about the group becoming a subcommittee of the BOH. Discussion of how subcommittee out persons not serving on the BOH would be formed? Is it allowed under our By-laws? Lengthy discussion of liability that a subcommittee might incur as if goes about its well-intentioned Samaritan activities. TM suggest that is nothing preventing such a group reporting to the Board of Health as a public service. TM notes that BOH role as a communicator of public activities is entirely appropriate. TM notes it is within the BOH authority to hire nurses to come into the community for specific work that it oversees and is in the public health domain. RA notes the Westhampton Connects is a new group that she is keep the BOH up to date on. Discussion of asking the Finance Committee for some money for nursing activities in Town should the need arise in the next year for wellness outreach in the community.

David Blum
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