

Westhampton Board of Health
Minutes to Remote Meeting of
April 21st, 2020. 10AM EST

Present: Robby Armenti (RA), David Blakesley (DB), Tom Martin (TM), Mark Bushee (MB), Bill Jablonski (BJ), Michael Kelsey (MK), John Kelsey (JK)

- 1) DB moves to approve as written minutes of remote meeting of April 6th and April 13th, 2020. RA seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- 2) JK before the Board to address lack of Town Permit for operations at KOA campground. JK notes his dissatisfaction with the process of Board permitting him through mid-October of 2019 when permitting should by right be from July 1-June 30 of subsequent year. JK notes that septic system construction was completed late last year and that the installer, engineer and DEP representative gave the verbal permission to place final cover over the system before winter. JK believes that should be enough for him to obtain his permit to operate until June 30 of 2020. TM notes that as of late last week the Board has received JPEGs of Septic Plan and As-Builts, copy of construction permit, paperwork on decommissioning of public well interfacing with new septic system, schedule of work to be completed on two other septic systems on the property, and a Certificate of Compliance that has been signed by installer and engineer but NOT signed by approving authority of the project -DEP. TM notes that this paperwork has only come to Board as of Friday last week. DB notes that DEP is the approving authority of the project, not the Westhampton Board of Health and that KOA was under DEP compliance order throughout 2019. MB outlines the confusion on the part of State guidelines for determining RV campgrounds as essential business that can be open during State emergency orders. MB notes that this confusion has been cleared up as of late last week, noting that seasonal RV campgrounds as not essential business and therefore cannot be in operation. JK notes that they have applied to the State for reconsideration of KOA as non-essential. MK notes that in Berkshire county some municipalities have over-ruled the State on this matter of RV campgrounds as essential business. MB notes that only year-round RV campgrounds can stay open. There is some discussion of KOA's desire to provide discounted fill of propane tanks and Tight Tank dumping services to Westhampton residents as community service. JK notes that he cannot

provide these services to Westhampton residents without a permit from the Board. TM notes that his understanding of State guidelines is that KOA could provide shelter to emergency responders and health professionals that need to isolate during the pandemic crises, but this does require a permit to operate from the Board which it does not have even though the Board has repeatedly asked the owners to complete and submit the necessary paperwork. TM notes his frustration with KOA in this regard. TM notes that is KOA and the designing engineer who are responsibility to complete the work that has been ordered by DEP. RA expresses a sense of frustration over comments on social media that paint the Board of Health in an unfair way. MB notes that outreach to DEP to find out what the holdup has not yielded any answers. TM notes that the Board of Health requested to be part of final inspections of the system last November but was not notified of the meeting. TM suggests that a letter from the engineer (Jim Gracia) to the Board of Health could clear up some of the uncertainty about the uncompleted Certificate of Compliance and allow the Board some flexibility to act upon the permit to operate. JK and MK to work on this for next weeks meeting.

- 3) TM reports he has received DEP required documents for changes in the layout of the transfer station to make the change over to dual stream recycling in July. DB and BJ have reviewed documents and they are minor and pro forma. TM to sign and forward to Kathleen Casey and DEP.
- 4) BJ before the Board to request changes to the fees to residents to use the transfer station. BJ details budget considerations moving forward with a new contract for tipping and transport of solid waste and consideration of what other towns in the HRMC are using for fee schedules. BJ requests a \$65-dollar yearly permit (increase of \$5) and increase in bag fees (large bags \$2 and small bags \$1- a doubling of these fees). DB notes it has been 4-5 years since fees were last increased. BJ notes other transfer station programs are stable at this point with fee more or less covering outlays. JB notes that Household Hazardous Waste Collection fees have gone up significantly. TM states that in the past the Transfer Stations has had a target of attempting to cover between 65-70% of its costs and that there is social benefit to having this 30% town subsidy for this town wide service. BJ also goes over other cost saving plans moving forward. DB moves to approve the proposed fee changes. RA seconds and the motion passes unanimously.

- 5) MB goes over some MAVEN work related to Covid 19 crises. Board discusses town response measures. Board discusses Foothills Health District response measure and significant gaps within the MAVEN system and BOH experiences with the virus response. TM notes that application has been submitted for BOH to have access to MAVEN in the event that MB is unavailable. MB notes that Michael Kurland of Goshen BOH and co-leader of the State Grant administration and Northampton MOU contract tracing program has agreed to be the backup MAVEN person for all town in the Foothills Health District (he already has access and is familiar with the system). Board agrees to this set up until TM is given access and training.
- 6) Board discusses CTC initiative through the State (Contact Tracing Collaborative) that is standing up this week.
- 7) Next meeting set for Monday. DB moves to adjourn. RA seconds and motion passes unanimously at 11:36 am.