

**Board of Health Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2020**

The Hopedale Board of Health held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in the Draper Room, Hopedale Town Hall, 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA. Those in attendance included: Chairperson Don Howes, Jason MacDonald, and Walter Swift. The meeting was televised on the local cable station and on Zoom.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Howes called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., noting that all members were present.

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 82 Neck Hill Road

The disposal works/septic plan for 82 Neck Hill Road was reviewed. It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the disposal works/septic plan. All voted in favor.

2. Approval of Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 3 Lloyd Street

The disposal works/septic plan for 3 Lloyd Street was reviewed. It was moved by Mr. Swift, seconded by Mr. MacDonald, to approve the disposal works/septic plan. All voted in favor.

3. E.L. Harvey Contract

Mr. Howes reported that there has been a lot of general discussion to make changes to the trash and recycle contract in an effort to save money. He reported that the town administrator had a meeting with the representative from E.L. Harvey to review the contract and the Board of Health was not invited to that meeting. He reported that the E.L. Harvey contract was designed specifically for Hopedale and there is little wiggle room to make changes that would not affect either the service or a cost to the residents. He noted that every taxpayer is affected by trash and recycle service, and police department and fire department service, whereas the library does not affect every taxpayer.

Mr. Howes stated that if the Board of Selectmen want to re-negotiate a contract with E.L. Harvey the Board of Health should not be responsible to maintain a new system wherein billing and tracking would take place.

Mr. Swift noted that any new system that would add to the taxes or set a fee would be a hardship to the elderly in town and that concerns him.

4. Other – None.

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Health Agent Employment

Mr. Howes gave a brief history of meetings with the town administrator to review the health agent's job description and salary. He also noted an email to the board from the town administrator wherein she described a plan to substantially reduce the health agent's salary.

Mr. Howes read a letter that the board members planned to sign and send to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. This letter contained a description of the town administrator's proposed salary schedule for the health agent and the statement that the Board of Health would not support this salary schedule. The letter also listed the some of the traditional and growing mandates of the health officer, noting that the health agent's position is not just an inspector position. The letter listed the board's salary proposal for the health agent. The letter stated the importance of providing quality public health and safety to Hopedale residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was moved by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Mr. Swift, to approve the letter and submit to the board of selectmen and finance committee. All voted in favor.

2. Other

Mr. Howes noted that John Bache was employed as a new recycle center employee, bringing the number of employees back up to four.

It was noted that the date for the free flu shot clinic had not yet been set.

Mr. Howes reported that there have been complaints of non-compliance of masks and social distancing at the Hopedale playground. He stated that four signs have been ordered and will be placed as a reminder to residents.

D. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be Thursday, October 15, 2020.

E. ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 6:51 p.m., it was moved by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Swift, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Villa

Carol A. Villa
Recording Secretary

Approved: January 21, 2021

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Documents List**

1. Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 82 Neck Hill Road (*available upon request*)
2. Disposal Works/Septic Plan: 3 Lloyd Street (available upon request)
3. Draft Letter to Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee