

APPROVED

ADAMS BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman David Rhoads, Vice-Chairman Peter Hoyt and Member Laura Grandchamp

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Edmund St. John III; Code Enforcer, Mark Blaisdell; iBerkshires, Jack Guerino and Administrative Assistant Pam Gerry

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rhoads called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Join Zoom meeting by video

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/99465007193?pwd=VHp1cndBU1poKzhvSHp1Qmlud1R4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 994 6500 7193

Passcode: 075226

Join Zoom meeting by phone, dial by your location

1-929-436-2866 (New York)

Meeting ID: 994 6500 7193

Passcode: 075226

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,99465007193#,,,,,0#,,075226# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,99465007193#,,,,,0#,,075226# US (New York)

Note: If you are having trouble joining, please call David B. Rhoads, Ph.D., Chair, at 781-507-1627.

NOTICES ON RECORDING & PANDEMIC WAIVER TO CONDUCT PUBLIC MEETING VIRTUALLY:

Chairman Rhoads began the meeting by stating that according to Governor Baker's March 12 and March 15, 2020 order suspending Open Meeting Laws and proposing strict limitations of attendees that are allowed to gather in one place, the Board of Health meeting would be conducted remotely with their participants.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 18, November 19

Chairman Rhoads began review of the November 18, 2020 minutes by stating that he would like amendments to be made to them.

He stated that the individuals listed under "Others Present" should be clarified. He stated that Steven Thompson, Sharon Burke and Mark White were representing "Specialty Minerals" and Ziad Kary and Franchesca Varilla should be listed as the "Environmental Partners."

Chairman Rhoads stated that "environmental partners" should be capitalized to read; "Environmental Partners."

He continued to note that "Power Point" should be one word; "PowerPoint."

Chairman Rhoads stated that he would like more elaboration to the "AFD Inorganic Contaminant report for 2020" in the "Review Mail" section of the agenda, adding; that there were "no

contaminants of concern and the barium levels were way below the allowable level and we were in very good shape at this point.” Vice-Chairman Hoyt agreed with the proposed amendments made by Chairman Rhoads.

In conclusion, Chairman Rhoads requested that “vetinary” be corrected to read; “veterinary.”

A motion made by Vice-Chairman Hoyt, seconded by Member Grandchamp to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020 as amended, passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken 3-0.

Board members moved to review the minutes of November 19, 2020.

Chairman Rhoads began by stating that under “Public Hearing,” the statement should read; “Chairman Rhoads stated that Ms. Shade had withdrawn her request.”

Chairman Rhoads stated that under “New Business,” “Deliberate/vote on request” should be removed from the minutes as this had not taken place.

Chairman Rhoads stated that the word “board” should be plural reading; “board’s last review” and “board’s permission.”

Chairman Rhoads stated that, “A roll call vote was taken 3-0” under “Schedule Next Meeting;” which should be removed from the minutes.

Chairman Rhoads requested that the blank page 4 should be removed from the minutes.

A motion made by Vice-Chairman Hoyt, seconded by Member Grandchamp to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020 as amended, passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no members of the public to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING:

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

- Any pertinent issues?

Chairman Rhoads addressed Code Enforcer Mark Blaisdell asking him if he had any pertinent issues to discuss with members. He stated that he did not have any issues to discuss at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- COVID-19 update

Chairman Rhoads asked members if they would like to provide any updates at this time.

He explained that the general population was aware that we are in “dire straits” at this time adding that the “numbers were looking bad last month” and they were even worse at the current time. Chairman Rhoads stated that the public health nurses are overwhelmed with COVID tracing protocols. He continued to note that the disease appears to be transmitted from nursing homes and inevitably into the general public and to the restaurants. He emphasized that individuals need to keep social distancing, adhere to proper hygiene and wear their masks. Chairman Rhoads stated that with individuals spending more time indoors in the days ahead, “more stricter adherence is called for.”

- SMI landfill expansion review: Independent consultant or DEP?

Chairman Rhoads stated that Specialty Minerals would be submitting their application for their landfill proposal with the DEP as part of their approval process. He told them that DEP would then allow the Board of Health to hire a third party inspector to assist with the board’s review. He explained that DEP would hire their own independent inspector and Environmental Partners was

hired by Specialty Minerals. He stated that the Board of Health would depend on DEP's review of their independent consultant.

Chairman Rhoads made a motion that the board forgo hiring an independent consultant and rely on the DEP's review in deliberating the proposed landfill, seconded by Vice-Chairman Hoyt.

In further discussion, Chairman Rhoads continued to note that he had circulated a letter stating that he was in communication with Ziad Kary, Environmental Partners who advised that the board should send a letter to DEP stating that they would not be retaining their own independent inspector and the Board of Health would rely on DEP's review. He told them upon approval from the board members, he would send copies of this letter to Specialty Minerals, Environmental Partners, Town Administrator Jay Green and the Board of Selectmen Chair, Christine Hoyt for their review.

Chairman Rhoads asked members if they had any questions regarding the proposed letter. There were none.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion 3-0.

Chairman Rhoads requested that Ms. Gerry, administrative assistant print a copy of the letter and place stamped signatures of the members on the document. Member Grandchamp agreed to come to Town Hall to sign the document.

Chairman Rhoads thanked the members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fee schedule update

Board members reviewed the fee schedule from the town's website. Vice-Chairman Hoyt looked for some clarification on the line item pertaining to mobile homes being classified as a lodging.

Mr. Blaisdell addressed the board members to explain that they had a shared permitting system with nine communities involved and Full Circle Technology did not obtain the board's input on these changes. He told them mergers were made noting that on the system "catering" was eliminated from the list and merged with milk and cream within the food establishment category. In response to Vice-Chairman Hoyt's inquiry, he assumed that the other communities requested that the mobile home permitting be merged into the lodging criterion. Mr. Blaisdell stated that the Board of Health needed to adjust to these changes so they would not incur additional costs to the department regarding change requests. He let the board members know that within the fee schedule under "Services," they would be adding; Code Enforcement Compliant Reinspection fees. He explained that at times he was required to revisit a business or residence on multiple occasions after issuing a correction order. Mr. Blaisdell commented that the town should collect additional fees for these added inspections.

Vice-Chairman Hoyt addressed Mr. Blaisdell asking him if there was a time-frame on these visits. Mr. Blaisdell stated that he had cases opened for months due to non-compliance noting that on his orders he records the information stating that there could be re-inspection fees, non-compliance fines or court complaints as consequences. He told them that if there were fines and fees incurred, the goals would be to get the person into compliance sooner.

Vice-Chairman Hoyt asked if Mr. Blaisdell could estimate the amount of time involved in the inspections. Mr. Blaisdell stated that it would depend on the "complexity" of the case and how quickly the individual could come into compliance.

Chairman Rhoads asked if the revision date of the fee schedule should be changed to the present date of the meeting. Mr. Blaisdell agreed with the proposed change.

A motion made by Vice-Chairman Hoyt, seconded by Member Grandchamp to accept the revised fee schedule of December 9, 2020, passed unanimously. A roll call vote was taken 3-0.

Chairman Rhoads stated that he would submit this revision to Town Clerk, Haley Meczywor to place on the Town of Adams website.

LOCAL & COUNTY UPDATES:

- None

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- BRPC tabletop exercise, 1/7/21, 2-5 PM (via Zoom)

Vice-Chairman Hoyt stated that he had signed up for this event.

REVIEW MAIL:

Chairman Rhoads stated that John Barrett, Superintendent of the Adams Water Department emailed a lead report to the Board of Health and noted that they could review this at a later time to determine if the Board of Health needed to take any action.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Chairman Rhoads stated that their annual report was due to be submitted in the upcoming new year and noted that he would be looking for public health recommendations to be made from the Board of Health members

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETINGS: January 6 or 13; February 3 or 10

Board members scheduled their next meetings for January 13 and February 10, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion made by Vice-Chairman Hoyt, seconded by Member Grandchamp to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 P.M., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date
