

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2021, 5:00P.M.
LOCATION: REMOTE

PRESENT:

Chairperson Margie LaFleur, Member Renee D'Argento, Member Phil Durno; Susan McCarthy, Council on Aging (COA) Director, Mark Mathews, Master Plan Implementation Team Member (MPIT), Margaret Scarsdale of 90 Nashua Road, Stephen Themelis of 4 Franklin Street; Jamison Bancroft and Christi Brand of 20L/R Wheeler.

Chairperson Margie LaFleur opened the meeting at 5:01p.m. She announced that the meeting was remote participation only; meeting is being cablecast live and recorded by Pepperell Community Media.

ACTION ITEM:

FY2022 BUDGET REVIEW:

Chairperson LaFleur welcomed all attendees and stated that the Board would be discussing and voting on the finalization of the FY2022 PBOH budget. She noted that the passing of this budget has been slightly delayed as the topic of the need for a Social Worker continues to be addressed.

Ms. LaFleur reiterated that the Board has asked for a Social Worker for the past couple of years as this position is desperately needed; unfortunately this position has still not materialized. Ms. LaFleur commented that she has reached out to Police/Fire, Susan McCarthy Director of the Council on Aging and Mark Mathews of the Master Plan Implementation Team (MPIT) for their input. She also hoped that in bringing everyone together, a coordinated group effort would be established in creating this position for the Town. The Board's current goal was to re-draft their Master Plan Response Worksheet to include the Social Worker position; with hopes that this action would help to get the attention and approval of this position.

Mark Mathews noted that he reviewed this with the Town Administrator and now will work with the Master Plan Implementation Team (MPIT) in presenting this opportunity of inserting the Social Worker request into the MP 7.13 Response Worksheet with the approximate cost of \$35,000. Mr. Mathews emphasized that the group should determine if they are looking for a part-time or full time position; as this is a good time to communicate with other departments, in determining the need as this could be a combined Social Worker; shared among the various town departments and their budgets. Mark recommended that the PBOH join forces will all departments to create a mass request to generate traction behind this need.

Discussion ensued as everyone was in consensus that there was a great need for the Social Worker position. The Council on Aging Director Susan McCarthy recapped the need by sharing that there were several hoarding cases, mental health issues and family crises in the town. She noted that the COA is also the Outreach for the Salvation Army and her office sees all ages in need of various services. She explained that although they have great trained volunteers; there is a tremendous need

for a qualified Social Worker. Ms. McCarthy also noted as President of PACH, she sees all ages of those in need for different situations. She commented it would be great having a Social Worker who could work with all these outreach committees and agencies and help all these people who have been really struggling. Ms. LaFleur hoped that they could request a full time position as the need extends throughout all age groups and critical circumstances.

Chairperson LaFleur said that she will revise her Master Plan Response Worksheet to include this request as she cannot include it in the FY2022 PBOH Budget Narrative at this time. She noted that the budget stands as it is; as there are no budget line items for her to enter the request for this position.

Ms. McCarthy questioned if \$35,000 was enough to cover the salary of a Social Worker. Renee D'Argento also shared this concern as she noted that the same dollar amount was requested back in 2017 for this position. Ms. LaFleur noted that the \$35,000 was an estimated salary figure for a 19 hour, non-benefitted Social Worker suggested by our Health Agent.

Discussion ensued between the Board members, Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Mathews regarding the average salary of a social worker; the hours required for this position versus the hours to request in order to establish and get this position approved. Questions were asked on the steps that will be taken internally to get this request processed. Thoughts were also shared, if this position was approved, who would administer the workload and oversee the Social Worker's duties; especially if the monies to cover this position were shared among different departments.

The Board together with Susan McCarthy concluded that they would work on getting a more accurate salary figure. Margie LaFleur will then update the Master Plan Response Worksheet, write a narrative and submit to Mark Mathews (MPIT) as soon as possible.

The Board along with Ms. McCarthy thanked Mark Mathews for his time and efforts. They appreciated his participation and feedback on this important matter.

Susan McCarthy thanked the Board for pursuing this request as she feels it is very important. She shared her appreciation for all their efforts in trying to establish this Social Worker position within the Town.

FY2022 BUDGET APPROVAL:

Chairperson LaFleur reviewed with the Board the FY2022 PBOH Budget.

Renee D'Argento motioned to approve the FY2022 Board of Health Budget for \$91,392.25; motion was seconded by Phil Durno; it was unanimously voted to approve FY2022 PBOH Budget for the grand total amount of \$91,392.25.

FUTURE MEETING:

Chairperson LaFleur acknowledged the presence of Jamison Bancroft and Christi Brand, homeowners of 20L/R Wheeler Street at the meeting. Ms. LaFleur thanked them for their

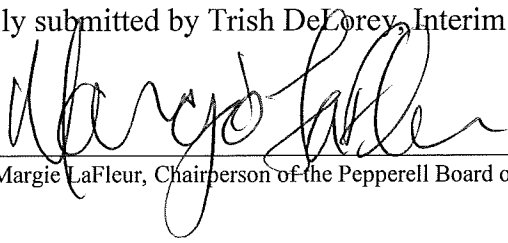
attendance and confirmed that a Meeting Agenda had been posted as they were scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 5:00p.m. to meet remotely and review with the Board the Condemnation Compliance Status of their property.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Phillip Durno; seconded by Renee D'Argento, it was voted all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 5:28p.m.

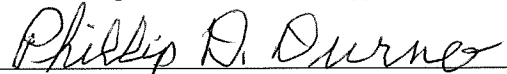
Respectfully submitted by Trish DeLorey, Interim Assistant to the Board of Health

Signed:



Margie LaFleur, Chairperson of the Pepperell Board of Health

Renee D'Argento, Member of the Pepperell Board of Health



Phillip Durno, Member of the Pepperell Board of Health