

**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING**

Name of Committee Meeting:

BOARD OF HEALTH

Date of Meeting: May 21, 2009 ✓

*LOCATION: 2nd Floor
Conference Room
City Hall 7:00pm*

NEW BUSINESS

7:00PM

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of previous meeting, March 19, 2009
3. Board of Health Business
Election of Chairperson
4. Crow Lane Update
5. Compost Facility Update
6. Gerald F. Moynahan, 182 Storey Avenue Update
7. Housing Inspection and Rental Permit Regulations
8. Fee Schedule Changes
9. Housekeeping Regulation Changes
10. Regionalization

**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING**

Name of Committee Meeting:

BOARD OF HEALTH

Date of Meeting: May 21, 2009

**LOCATION: 2nd Floor Conference Room
7:00pm**

ATTENDANCE:

ROBIN BLAIR O.D.
SUSAN BELUK M.D.
PATRICIA LAWRENCE R.N.
JOHN W. MORRIS
DAVE MADDEN

BOARD OF HEALTH, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF HEALTH
BOARD OF HEALTH
DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTH AGENT

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:02 PM

ROBIN BLAIR O.D. MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2009. SECONDED BY PATRICIA LAWRENCE R.N., SO VOTED UNANIMOUSLY. SUSAN BELUK M.D. ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE START OF THE MEETING. SUSAN BELUK M.D. MADE A MOTION TO CHG CERTAIN WORDING PERTAINING TO MR. GERALD MOYNAHAN HEARING. SECONDED BY ROBIN BLAIR O.D.

BOARD OF HEALTH BUSINESS

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON:

Susan Beluk M.D. voted to elect Robin Blair O.D. as Chairman of the Newburyport Board of Health. Seconded by Patricia Lawrence R.N.

CROW LANE LANDFILL :

Mr. Morris advised the Board that on May 1, 2009 they started bringing in C & D materials. Mr. David Madden, Health Agent will be overseeing the trucks coming into the Landfill. So far we have had neither odor complaints nor dust problems.

Patricia Lawrence R.N.: What is the procedure in place for checking the C & D materials?

Jack Morris: Dave Madden oversees every load coming into the landfill. In addition he oversees the dust problem if one should occur. The road is swept x 4 per day. For the first time in ages they are now in compliance.

Robin Blair O.D.: Regarding the "Administrative Order", the City Council vs. the Mayor, what was the outcome? Didn't the City Council hire a law firm to review the same paperwork as Kopelman & Paige? And wasn't the cost roughly \$5K?

Mr. Morris: The City Council did in fact spend \$5K to hire an outside Law Firm, only to agree with Kopelman & Paige. Mr. Morris advised the board that he would keep him posted of further changes.

**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING**

COMPOST FACILITY :

Mr. Morris advised all that he would like to stay with "Option #2". Keep the Compost Facility at the existing location with the following alterations:

- MOVE leaf and grass drop-off to the west of the facility on the other side away from residents
- Impose accurate volume limits that will be monitored by the City and Agresource
- Remove leaves and grass within a two-week period once those limits are reached.
- Assess adequate permit fees to cover costs
- Develop operating plan with DPW on leaves from street sweeping
- Continue education on benefits of home composting

Doctor Beluk agreed that we should stay with "Option #2".

Robin Blair O.D. suggested that Mr. Morris contact a previous Health Director to discuss the history of the landfill. Mr. Morris may find it interesting.

HEARING: MR. GERALD F. MOYNAHAN - 182 STOREY AVENUE:

Mr. Morris advised the Board that he has met with Rosanne Robillard, C.O.A and a councilor from the Elder Services Program to discuss the case pertaining to Mr. Gerald F. Moynahan owner of 182 Storey Avenue. A letter dated May 11, 2009 from Mr. Moynahan was submitted for the Boards review. Mr. Morris again summarized for the Board the history between Mr. Moynahan and the Newburyport Health Department. Mr. Morris stated that they are formulating a corrective action plan that will benefit Mr. Moynahan and the City of Newburyport. Mr. Morris stated that he will report back to the Board regarding his findings.

HOUSING INSPECTION AND RENTAL PERMIT REGULATIONS:

Mr. Morris introduced proposed Housing Inspection and Rental permit regulations. A copy of these rules and regulations were distributed prior to this evenings meeting for review. Chapter 1 & Chapter 2 are basically "Housekeeping" changes only.

Robin Blair O.D.: How and when will landlords be notified of this regulation?

Mr. Morris: The regulation will go into effect January 1, 2010. The advanced notice will be included in the tax bill. The proposed inspection fee's are as follows: \$100.00 for each unit, \$75.00 for each Studio and \$30.00 for re-inspections.

Robin Blair O.D.: Will this include Apartment Buidlings?

Mr. Morris: In addition to Apartment Buildings this "Housing Inspection and Rental Permit Regulation" will pertain to anyone within the City of Newburyport who rents out an apartment. We'll need to hire an inspector.

**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING**

Patricia Lawrence R.N.: Patricia was under the impression, and she believes that all the Board members were under the impression that this "Housing Inspection and Rental Permit" would be regulated toward complaints only. Does every city/town have this regulation?

Mr. Morris: Salisbury and Lowell have these similar regulations in place now.

Robin Blair O.D.: So not every city/town is on board with these regulations. Robin Blair suggested at this time we halt the discussion regarding "Housing Inspection and Rental Permit" so that all in attendance could gather their thoughts and move on to Chapter 1 & 2 review and the fee schedule changes.

At this point in time a motion was made by Patricia Lawrence to accept Chapter 1 & Chapter 2, revisions which basically pertain to "Housekeeping" changes only. Seconded by Susan Beluk M.D.

In addition, the fee schedule changes were discussed. Regarding Food Plan Review for Mobile food units and Residential Kitchens, they were revised from \$100.00 to \$75.00. Susan Beluk M.D. made a motion to accept revised "Fee Schedule". Seconded by Patricia Lawrence R.N.

Robin Blair O.D.: Discussion regarding "Housing Inspection and Rental Permit" to resume.

Robin Blair O.D.: After glancing around stated that he feels the other Board members are uncomfortable with the information provided by Mr. Morris. Robin Blair O.D. was under the impression, as was Patricia Lawrence R.N. that the "Housing Inspection and Rental Permit" were for complaints only.

Mr. Morris: The Board was advised that "Housing Complaints" have been conducted in Newburyport since he started over 7+ years ago. That is a constant. In addition to the "Housing Complaints" the Health Dept also investigates the following: Food, Solid Waste, Recycling and General Complaints. Each complaint is assigned a case number and followed through until completion.

Patricia Lawrence R.N.: Is there really a need right now for Newburyport to implement this program?

Robin Blair O.D.: We know the history of Salisbury, do we really want to enact an ordinance similar to Salisbury? Do we have repeat housing violation offenders?

Mr. Morris: No, we do not.

Susan Beluk M.D.: If you look at Newburyport in general there are several clutters of apartments privately owned. By enacting this ordinance wouldn't it improve the value of the city to have these inspections? The prospective tenants would automatically know that the apartment that are about to rent is good and has been approved by the Health Department.

Patricia Lawrence R.N.: Good point. Patricia Lawrence R.N. agreed with Dr. Beluk.

Robin Blair O.D.: How often will the inspections occur?

Mr. Morris: Every time there is a change in tenant status.

Mr. Morris: The following was proposed: This could apply only to people that have violations. These individuals will be charged the fees. We can self-correct.

**CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING**

Robin Blair O.D.: As long as we have a detailed, valid complaint it may work.

Susan Beluk M.D. motioned to accept the Plan as amended. Seconded by Patricia Lawrence R.N.

REGIONALIZATION:

Mr. Morris advised the Board that he has attended several meetings with Amesbury and Salisbury representatives discussing regionalization. Both Mayor's and the Town Manager of Salisbury are in favor of it. Mr. Morris advised that the Salisbury B.O.H. was upset that the Health Administrative Assistants position was cut, but there's nothing the City of Newburyport can do as Salisbury is in a financial crisis.

Robin Blair O.D.: What ever happened to the new Animal Control Officer? When will he start?

Mr. Morris: David Parsons, new ACO hire arrived Tuesday, May 19, 2009 to begin his employ with the city. However, Mr. Parsons advised Mr. Morris that he may have a problem working for Newburyport as he was laid-off from Lawrence and was collecting unemployment. Mr. Morris discussed this matter with Mayor Moak and both were in agreement to rescind his appointment.

Robin Blair O.D.: Do we have an alternate? What hours will Harold Condon be working?

Mr. Morris: We may try to get Thomasine Ambrose to fill in 25 hrs per week until an alternate is chosen. Mr. Condon will be on-call from 7:00am – 5:00pm everyday with weekends off. The new hire for Newburyport will be on-call 5:00pm – 7:00am and will work 3 weekends every month. Thomasine Ambrose will be working 1 weekend per month. In addition, if the new hire is unable to reach Newburyport in time once called out by the Police Dept, Thomasine will be next on the list as a call-out. Mr. Morris will keep the Board posted as to the ACO.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm