

**Newburyport Board of Health Meeting
January 16, 2020**

Date of Approval: 3/19/2020

Attendees

Dr. Robin Blair, Chairman of the Board
Dr. Sam Merabi, Board Member
Dr. Rob Slocum, Board Member
Frank Giacalone, Health Director
Molly Ettenborough, Energy & Sustainability Coordinator
Patricia McAlarney, Note Taker

Call to Order: Dr. Blair called the meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Health meeting of December 12, 2019 was made by Dr. Merabi; seconded by Dr. Blair. Votes to approve: 3 ; votes opposed - none. Minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

Solid Waste & Recycling – Molly Ettenborough

Ms. Ettenborough reviewed with the Board the information that had been sent to them prior to the meeting which highlighted the cost differentials between the prior solid waste contract and projected costs under the proposed Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program. She explained that the conservative estimate is that inclusion of PAYT would result in a 25% reduction in solid waste through a combination of increased diversion, recycling, reuse and donation. The Board expressed concern that it is difficult to anticipate the financial impact that adding new housing developments would have on the total cost of municipal solid waste disposal. Ms. Ettenborough explained that per household trash/recycle generation (and the associated cost) is extrapolated from the total tonnage divided by the number of households. There are currently 8,000 households that qualify for municipal trash collection. The City's contract with G. Mello includes a clause that would increase the trash collection cost by 5% when the number of households is increased by 500.

The Board noted that the new contract should focus on the effect that adding new households has on the cost of solid waste disposal, and to what extent property taxes cover those costs. Ms. Ettenborough will contact the offices of Planning and Finance to obtain a breakdown of how property taxes are applied to city expenses (schools, trash collection, etc.); and she noted that the Planning Department has just recently requested that per household costs associated with city services (water, sewer, etc.) be compiled.

Ms. Ettenborough informed the Board that the PAYT proposal that was presented to city council has 'died in committee' but it will be brought back up for discussion and possible revision. Some suggestions that may be included in the next proposal will be to phase in a system of reducing the amount of trash allowed per household, to encourage food waste reduction through various programs/efforts such as encouraging composting and establishing free drop-off locations for food waste. If allowed by the grant, Ms. Ettenborough indicated that she would like to encourage participation in the organics composting program by making the barrels available at no charge to city residents (Participants pay approximately \$100 per year for the organic's collection service.) Dr. Merabi suggested that the city develop a 'Swap Meet' that would resemble a flea market where residents could bring items they no longer need and residents (and non-residents) could come to take items that they could use. Ms. Ettenborough noted

that programs such as Facebook Marketplace, Curb Alert and Nextdoor Digest have become very popular and help to divert usable items from the waste stream. At the current time, encouraging residents to increase their recycling is not an effective cost reduction strategy. In the past, the city was paid \$10/ton for recycling; now, however, the recycle market is very expensive and we are currently paying \$100/ton. Ms. Ettenborough informed the Board that the Solid Waste Task Force will be meeting tomorrow and Sharon Kishida, Municipal Assistance Coordinator, will be in attendance. Ms. Kishida may be able to provide answers to some of the concerns raised by the Board. She also asked the Board to forward to her any suggestions they would like to have included for consideration by city council and/or the Solid Waste Committee.

Public Health Nurse Update – Director Giacalone

- The Public Health Nurse will be going on maternity leave in March.
- The Department still has doses of regular and high dose flu vaccine that can be administered in the Health Department by appointment.
- The Mothers' Visiting Nurse Program (MVNP) received notification today that they are the recipient of a \$60,000 grant that will be used to pay personnel for managing the grant. Director Giacalone noted that Newburyport accounts for more visits to new mothers than any of the other communities. He also informed the Board that MVNP has been selected for a Poster Session that will be awarded in Colorado.

Tobacco Regulations – Director Giacalone

Director Giacalone advised the Board that the local tobacco regulations will need to be updated to match the newly passed Federal Law which raises the age to purchase tobacco to 21 and bans the manufacture, distribution and sale of cartridge-type vaping products. Director Giacalone explained that two different inspections for tobacco sales are conducted: (1) A Federal Inspection performed by the FDA checks for retailer compliance with federal laws and (2) retail stores in Newburyport are also subject to compliance check inspections by staff from Northeast Tobacco Control Program for violations to laws and local regulations. Fines assessed by the FDA have been recently raised to \$1000 (first offense), \$2000 (second offense) and \$5000 (third or subsequent offense) ; while fines assessed by Tobacco Control Program for violating Board of Health Regulations remain at \$100, \$200, \$300 (for 1st, 2nd, 3rd/subsequent offenses.) Director Giacalone explained that Newburyport continues to have a ban on all flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes/flavored vaping products. If banned products are sold to a minor, then the Federal level fine would apply; however, if flavored products are sold to an adult in a retail store in Newburyport, then the local \$100/\$200/\$300 fine would apply.

Two Tobacco Retailer Educational Training Sessions will be presented by Ron Beauregard, Director of the Northeast Tobacco Control Program, at the Newburyport Senior Center on Wednesday, January 29. Board Members are welcome to attend.

Crow Lane Landfill– Director Giacalone

Blue Wave is the new owner that will be installing solar panels at the landfill site on Colby Farm Lane (formerly Crow Lane) once the landfill has been officially closed by Department. Director Giacalone asked whether the Board had any issues or concerns related to the landfill that they wanted brought forth during the closure process. Director Giacalone noted that Blue Wave will be paying into a fund to cover the cost of any further monitoring of the site.

Animal Control Services – Director Giacalone

In conjunction with the city's Grant Writer, Nancy London, the Health Department applied for and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$60,000 to plan for a proposed expansion of the use of the animal shelter. The intention of the grant is to encourage shared services amongst municipalities. Newburyport has a shared service agreement in place with West Newbury and a less formal agreement with Amesbury/Salisbury. Newbury/Byfield has also expressed interest in using Newburyport's Animal Shelter and, possibly, providing some ACO cross-coverage. The Department is waiting for a decision by the state as to whether grant monies may be used to add outdoor kennels to the shelter and to install security measures such as keyless/trackable door locks and indoor/outdoor cameras. Director Giacalone also reiterated that the new ACO, Kayla Provencher, continues to do a wonderful job as Animal Control Officer.

Food Establishments – Director Giacalone

- Chipotle's has submitted plans for their location at the prior Papa Ginos on Storey Ave.
- Tuscan Kitchen has submitted their plans but they have not been reviewed yet.
- Vera Ristorante – The Health Department is still waiting for plans to be submitted for this establishment

Board of Health Regulations – Director Giacalone

Director Giacalone informed the Board that he will be reviewing the Board of Health Regulations to identify any changes that need to be made to be sure that the Regulations reflect current laws and practices.

State of the City Address

The Mayor has announced that the State of the City will take place on Thursday, February 6 at 7 pm at the Senior Center.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Blair; seconded by Dr. Slocum. Votes in favor - 3; Votes to oppose - 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.