

WHITMAN BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 22nd, 2022

Members present: Danielle Clancy – Chair
Dawn Varley – Vice Chair
Jamie Rhynd – Clerk

Staff present: Dan Kelly – Health Inspector/Dept. Head
Dina Amado – Administrative Assistant

Others present: Chief Tim Clancy – Whitman Fire

Danielle Clancy called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M.

Danielle Clancy read the following:

Welcome everyone to the meeting, this meeting is following open meeting laws and is open to the general public. As the meeting is an in person meeting, it is therefore not being recorded or posted to YouTube. We will be performing an audio only recording for meeting minute's transcription purposes only. The recording will not be retained as a permanent record.

Chair Danielle Clancy: asked for a motion to approve meeting minutes for 11/10/2022 BOH meeting.

Motioned: Dawn V
2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Minutes to last meeting Approved and Signed.

Chair Danielle Clancy: asked for a motion to accept the licenses as issued.

Motioned: Dawn V
2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Licenses accepted as issued.

Chair Danielle C: asked if there were any questions regarding the Health Agent's Report. There were no questions. She asked Mr. Kelly if there was anything he would like to discuss before the board votes to accept his report.

Dan K: Discussed his report and updated the board on the state DPH issuing more test kits. Also mentioned ordering more PPE from the state including N95 child face masks as well as more surgical masks that the fire department uses. Also mentioned animal control Laura H. is meeting at 200 Essex Street with a representative from Dept. of

Agriculture regarding dog kennel business. He will travel to the site at the end of the meeting.

Dawn V: Asked Mr. Kelly if 200 Essex Street Kennel license had been approved for that property. Also, asked how many dogs allowed.

Dan K: Explained they did receive a Kennel license for 25 animals but the owner stated she will never have more than 20. The license is either 25 or 50 and she was granted 25.

Danielle C: Asked Mr. Kelly if they will narrow down the owner's source of dogs.

Dan K: Explained that they will determine the source of the dogs before she is allowed to open.

Chair Danielle Clancy: Asked if there was anything else to discuss with HA.

Dawn V: Asked about the budget and what Mr. Kelly was going to ask for. Asked when he was going to be meeting with the Finance Committee.

Dan K: Answered he has not received a date from the Finance Committee to go over the budget. Stated when he does get a date he will let the board know.

Danielle C: Asked Fire Chief and Dawn if they received a date for their FinComm meetings.

Chief Clancy: Stated he has a date of January 3rd.

Dawn V: Stated she had a date in January for the 10th, but declined the date because she wanted to see first what other department heads were doing. Stated that the assessor's office department head was requesting a 23% raise. Wanted to know what HA was going to be doing.

Dan K: Stated he had no intentions of asking more than the 2.5% that other town employees were getting. Stated he sat down with the Board Chair and went through the budget. Stated he will send a copy to all board members after the meeting. He advised that he still doesn't have a date to meet with the Finance Committee as of yet.

Chair Danielle Clancy: asked for a motion to accept the Health Inspector's Report and Read File.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Health Inspector's Report and Read File Accepted.

Chair Danielle C: asked if there were any questions regarding the PHN Report. There were no questions.

Chair Danielle Clancy: asked for a motion to accept the Public Health Nurse's Report.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Public Health Nurse's Report Accepted.

Chair Danielle C: asked if there was any questions or a need to discuss any Internal Board of Health Business. There were no questions.

Chair Danielle C: moved meeting on to discuss any old business in regards to Covid protocols and mandates.

Danielle C: Advised that the new policy and protocols was approved by selectmen and managers should all have received a copy. Dan K. and Dawn V. confirmed they were received by managers and department heads. There was a brief discussion regarding questions raised of the policy that compared it to the CDC recommendations regarding testing out of wearing a mask for 10 days. The board felt that the 10 day requirement was a safer option. Having a test out of wearing a mask policy, would have been too difficult to regulate and would have posed too many variables to adopt that policy. Also stated that while Fire and Police have the option to make regulations stricter than the state; given their close quarters and special circumstances, the Board cannot make the policy less strict or looser than the state's requirements.

She also advised that there is a temporary suspension of Covid Booster clinics due to poor attendance. Stated that she will remain the Covid Vaccine Coordinator and will continue to issue vaccine card replacements as needed, as well as help find vaccine's for people who call to request a vaccine. Should the need for clinics increase in the future; they will look to re-establish the vaccine clinics at that time. Asked Jamie R. if her practice was seeing a rise in Flu or Covid patients for the fall.

Jamie R: Responded that she was seeing flu patients which are ongoing but yes she was seeing an increase in children being treated for Covid as well.

Discussion ensued: Dan K asked if anyone knows who makes the Flu vaccine, responses stated Tamiflu was the name of the treatment and not sure who the manufacturer of the vaccine or treatment is. Dan K stated he was just curious as to the manufacturer and he will research and find the information after the meeting. Danielle C mentioned that she had looked into doing the flu vaccine through the town, however they would have had to charge for the vaccine and purchase the vaccine privately. She also mentioned that the vaccine is different for different age groups and it was just too difficult and too cost prohibitive to proceed. Mr. Kelly mentioned he had reached out to

Walgreen’s to pursue a partnership to allow Walgreen’s to give the vaccine at the Town Hall as they did in the past. Their answer was they would be willing to discuss when Covid was over.

Chief Clancy: Mentioned that Whitman was one of the only clinics around that didn’t charge for the vaccine. The Clinics were run completely free of charge and provided as a service for the residents of Whitman.

BOH Discussed and agreed to hold next meeting on Thursday 01/26/2022 at 9:30 AM.

Chair: Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to hold next meeting on 01/26/2022 at 9:30AM in the Lower Level Meeting Room at the Town Hall.

Motioned: Dawn V

2nd: Jamie R

Vote: 3 –Yes

Meeting Scheduled.

Chair Danielle Clancy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motioned: Jamie R

2nd: Dawn V

Vote: 3 –Yes

Meeting Adjourned at 09:44 AM 12/22/2022.

True copy attest: _____ Date: _____

Jamie Rhynd – Clerk BOH

Filed with Clerk’s office _____