

Board of Health Minutes

July 15, 2021

Town of Auburn
Board of Health
Town Hall Selectmen
Room
104 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts

Members Present : Eric Otterson, Chairman; Carolyn Griffin, Vice Chair; Lindsay Guittarr, member
In Attendance: Eileen Alexander Asst. Health Director; Paula Conway DDIS Clerk

Board of Health - Thursday July 15, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Chairman Eric Otterson in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

1. Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.
2. Review Agenda - Add/Remove any items
3. Approval of Minutes - 7/29/19 & 11/19/19

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to allow Darlene Coyle & Eileen Alexander to represent the Auburn Board of Health with the Region 2 Coalition.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to allow Darlene Coyle & Eileen Alexander as the Representative's for the Auburn Board of Health for Region 2 Coalition.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr Vote: 3-0

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to accept the meeting minutes for 7/29/19.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to accept the minutes for July 29, 2019 BOH meeting.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr Vote 3-0

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to accept the meeting minutes for 11/19/19.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to accept the minutes for November 19, 2019 BOH meeting.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr Vote 3-0

6:00 PM- Shared Service Grant Application for COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing -Requesting a vote to apply for, accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from Massachusetts Department of Public Health to support COVID activities required by the Board of Health. Shared towns in this grant are Auburn, Brimfield and Charlton (host). Requesting a vote to sign Letter of Commitment .

Eileen Alexander explains that we have been working with CMRPC for the past year during COVID they have spearheaded some grants available through the state and federal government. We are in a group of other central Mass towns that have looked at these grants. This grant is for handling contact tracing for cases, even though COVID cases have lowered, we do not know what the future of the pandemic is going to bring. We have utilized the State program for help with contact tracing, however that will be ending soon, and all towns will be responsible for their own contract tracing & reporting. The State came out with

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this grant and the three towns that have come together to apply for it are Charlton, Auburn, and Brimfield. The purpose is to hire a nurse to help with this need for handling the cases, so that the BOH departments can also focus on their regular duties. Charlton has agreed to be the host, they have already hired a group of nurses during the pandemic to help with contact tracing and are familiar with Maven. We have applied for this grant and hope it will help take some of the burden off the towns during the next round of COVID. A letter of commitment is needed by the Board for this grant process.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to sign the Letter of Commitment.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to sign the Letter of Commitment for the Shared Service Grant for COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr

Vote: 3-0

6:05 PM- Public Health Excellence Shared Service Grant Application for local public health support services- Requesting a Vote to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$300,000 from Massachusetts Department of Public Health to support two positions, Community Health Coordinator and Regional Health Inspector. Shared towns in this grant are Auburn, Brimfield, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, Wales and Webster (host). Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission is coordinating this shared service grant. Requesting a vote to sign Letter of Commitment.

Eileen Alexander explains this Shared Grant Application for local public health services is a little different because this brings together the following towns: Auburn, Oxford, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, Webster, Wales. The towns have needs that are alike, for help with health inspections, health education and health programs. Webster is the host for this grant and they will hire two employees, an Inspector and a Health Coordinator; under the Shared Grant, to help with inspections such as septic, well, food along with health education and programs as needed. We are hopeful this grant will help our department. This Grant is \$300,000.00 a year for three years, and our town has only agreed to services given by the State grant for three years. A letter of commitment is needed by the Board for this grant process.

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to sign the Letter of Commitment.

Carolyn Griffin makes a motion to sign the Letter of Commitment for the Shared Service Grant for Local Public Health support services.

Second: Lindsay Guittarr

Vote: 3-0

A. Director's Items

- A. **Solid Waste** - Update on Plastic Bag Reduction Implementation Plan: Last April this was put on hold due to COVID; the State actually put a ban on reusable bags for a while. That has since been lifted. This went before the Board of Selectmen meeting this past Monday night to review the time frame to bring this back on the table. We are looking sometime in October and are working on the business list to send out notification letters that we will be implementing the bylaw. We are working with companies that sell the bags for resources to help businesses. They need to use up the inventory they have and purchase new inventory that are in line with the bag requirements. Some businesses are already implementing the changes because of their other store locations have already started it. This has been pretty busy for our office, and we are going to be offering education to help with this change.

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B. Hybrid Meeting Discussion - We have added this to let you know this is an item for discussion for Selectmen's suggestions. Some people have returned to in person meeting as some are still remote. We are looking at the States guidelines and are just looking to see if the Board has any comment they would like to go back with

Eric Otterson commented that he feels remote Zoom meeting have increased with attendance as more people attend due to not having to travel.

Carolyn Griffin commented her only concern is that the COVID numbers are starting to climb and in person would put more people at risk.

Eileen will take comment back to the Selectmen.

C. Communicable Diseases: Not available

Eric Otterson entertains a motion to close the hearing .

Motion: Carolyn Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:17pm

Second: Linsey Guittarr Vote: All in favor 3-0

APPROVED ON 8/17/21