

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE, MA**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**August 8, 2023**

**Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 PM**

**Quorum Check:** Confirmed

**Members Present:** Linda Cocalis (LC), Dr. Louis Fazen (LF)

**Members Absent:** Richard Volpe (RV)

**Others Present:**

Kenneth B. Lacey, Jr. (KL) Health Agent

Laura Sherris (LS) Health Department Administrative Assistant

**2:00 PM** – Meeting called to order.

**2:01 PM – Review Minutes** – Minutes from the June 13, 2023 Board of Health (BOH) meeting are reviewed. LF requests clarification regarding the 1:04 PM entry regarding the Health Agent annual review; LC states that the Board reviewed information to be submitted to the Town Administrator (TA) in order to award KL the annual incentive bonus. LF suggests changing the wording to reflect an evaluation of the proposed annual review information; LC agrees.

**2:07 PM** – LF motions to accept the June 13, 2023 minutes as amended; LC 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

**2:09 PM** – Minutes from the July 18, 2023 BOH meeting are reviewed. LF inquires if it is possible to add information to the minutes to provide clarification regarding the Senior Center discussion noted at 3:26 PM; LC states that if it was not discussed at the July 18, 2023 meeting it cannot be added to the minutes; she states that the discussion can be continued at today's meeting and added to the August minutes.

**2:13 PM** – LF motions to accept the July 18, 2023 as drafted; LC 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

**2:14 PM – New Business – Office, Charlton Coalition for Public Health (CCPH) updates** – KL states that seasonal beach testing has been ongoing, and there have been no exceedances for the past two weeks; he states that cases of EEE and West Nile Virus have been low throughout the state thus far. KL states that the Health Dept., along with Mary Carpenter from CCPH, attended the National Night Out event on August 1, 2023, and that the Police Department stated it was the highest attendance yet for the annual event; the Health Dept. presented information regarding mosquitoes and ticks, and Mary was able to introduce herself to the community, including other public service providers. LC states that the BOH has a new Finance Committee liaison, and that introductions will occur prior to the next budget season.

**2:25 PM – New Business – Landfill Leachate contract update** – KL states that the leachate hauling contract was awarded to Waste Water Services Inc. (WWSI) and that the Select Board

executed the contract on August 7, 2023; WWSI will be visiting Sturbridge to execute the contract shortly.

**2:27 PM – New Business – Landfill projects – EA contract updates** – KL states that the contracts for groundwater monitoring and intermediate grading with EA Engineering have been executed, and that work will be underway soon. KL states that two senior workers are currently completing work-off hours at the Recycling Center and Landfill. KL states that the town is now in possession of the new landfill loader. KL states that once a price is determined for the installation of a new litter fence at the landfill we will know the budget available for the rental of a sheepsfoot compactor for landfill compaction.

**2:33 PM – New Business – Public Health/DOT updates – Louis Fazen** – LF states that he spoke with Mark McKeivitz of Icon Architecture regarding the planned HVAC system at the new Senior Center and learned that the building would be used as a recreational facility, and not designed for long-term shelter; LF states that as the HVAC system is based on occupancy, he has questions regarding the sufficiency of ventilation for larger groups during longer-term events, such as during use as a cooling center or during a weather event. KL and LC state that the current and future Senior Center is not designated as an emergency shelter, and that a cooling center does not have a specific definition or requirements; the building is sufficient by code to use as a short-term gathering area, but is not able to function as a shelter. KL, LC, and LF discuss the town's emergency management plans; LC states that the Emergency Dispensing Sites (EDS) in town are Burgess Elementary School and Tantasqua Regional High School, and that Tantasqua is the only designated shelter in Sturbridge. LC and LF agree that ideally the Senior Center could be utilized as a shelter site, but cannot serve that function as designed. LF states he can look into the planned capacity of the future Senior Center in order to help plan for potential future emergency events. LF states he reached out to MassDOT regarding concerns about the intersection of New Boston Road and Route 20; LF states that MassDOT informed him that a larger road project regarding Routes 131 and 20 is being planned for the future, potentially slated to begin in 2026, and they are currently reviewing shorter-term solutions. All discuss sending a letter from the Board to MassDOT outlining concerns around the New Boston Road and Route 20 intersection; LF provides wording regarding the concerns; LS will draft the letter and send to the Board for review.

**2:54 PM** – LF states he would like to look into the BOH's responsibilities as outlined in the town's 2011 Master Plan in conjunction with landfill and recycling center plans; LF states that he would like to look into the potential future of the Recycling Center to go alongside the future planning for the landfill. KL states he plans to have Frank Postma from EA Engineering attend the September BOH meeting to discuss possibilities for a Recycling Center study. KL states that the town is looking to revamp town and open space plans in the near future, and that would provide an opportunity to adjust BOH plans.

**3:12 PM** – LC motions to adjourn the meeting; LF 2<sup>nd</sup>. AIF: LC, LF; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Sherris  
Health Department Administrative Assistant