



City of Westfield, Massachusetts
Health Department

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Board of Health Meeting
February 10, 2016

Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Michael Paquette Teresa Mitchell, M.D.

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The minutes of the January 13, 2016 meeting were accepted as printed. There was no one present wishing to speak during the public participation portion of the meeting. The Board began discussing items on the agenda.

Signature Authorization – Mr. Rouse informed the Board that the Auditing Department requires that the Board vote to allow Head Clerk, Cheryl McMordie, to sign invoices, transfers and other documents for the Landfill/Transfer Station in his absence. A motion was made and seconded to approve Cheryl McMordie as a signatory in his absence. The vote was as follows:

Paquette – Yes
Mitchell – Yes
Carnes – Yes

The motion was declared passed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None scheduled.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Nursing Division Update:

- Immunization Rates – Debra Mulvenna, Supervising Public Health Nurse, addressed the Board with regard to the number of students in our public schools claiming medical or religious immunization exemption. Currently, there are 5,598 students in the school system; 126 of which claim religious exemption (2.25%). This figure is in line with other communities in Hampden County. As religious leaders do not have a problem with children being vaccinated, the Federal religious exemption may be eliminated in the future. It is believed that parents' fear of either introducing a foreign substance into their child, development of

autism, or governmental control may be the reasoning behind the lack of immunization, especially in our refugee population. If these numbers continue to rise, we may want to consider public discussions and education on the matter. Ms. Mulvenna will continue to follow trends for any increases.

- Refugee Arrival Projections – Ms. Mulvenna advised the Board that the City’s Public Health Nurse, Cassandra Strom, is currently conducting home visits to our refugee families to assess their health and living conditions. Because some of these families have not been introduced to modern technology, Joseph Rouse and Stephen Cipriani, the Code Enforcement Inspector, will be accompanying Ms. Strom on future home visits to assist with any problems or concerns these new residents may have, as well as to verify that they have standard housing and can use the utilities properly (i.e. thermostats, faucets, etc.). This should make them more comfortable in their new surroundings.

Graphs illustrating projected new refugee arrivals for both the State and Hampden County were distributed. The majority of refugees will be from the Ukraine. These individuals will require less time and resources as most have existing family and community ties that can help acclimate them. Other arrivals may require outreach educators to assist with language translation and cultural training such as hand washing, etc. Ascentria will conduct the cultural training. A handout was provided explaining the layers of security checks and screening procedures required for Syrian refugees to enter the U.S.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

Radon Awareness Promotion – The final Radon Awareness flyer was distributed. A suggestion was made to offer all City employees a radon kit free of charge as an indicator of where radon may be prevalent.

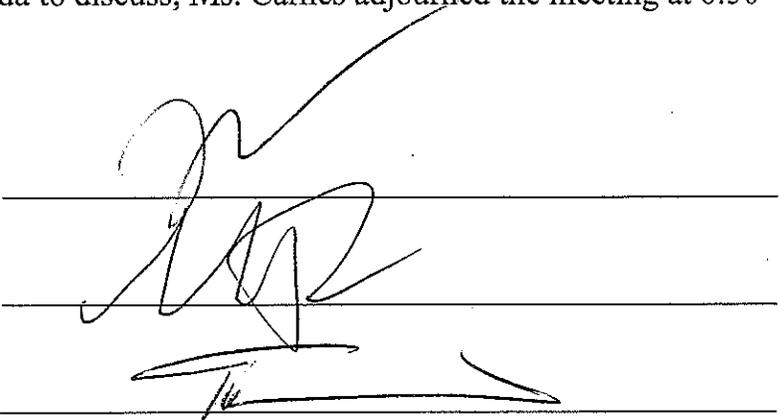
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:

F.O.G. Regulations – As a result of multiple problems created by the amount of grease introduced into the City’s sewer system by commercial establishments, the adoption of a new regulation regarding Fats, Oils and Grease (F.O.G.) will be created. Stephen Cipriani has drafted these proposed regulations and created a flyer explaining the damaging effects of F.O.G. and ways in which both commercial and residential owners can prevent costly sewer backups and septic system damage. Mr. Cipriani also indicated that restaurants will now be required to clean their grease traps on a monthly basis and keep a maintenance log of such cleanings. Mr. Cipriani will also be inspecting restaurants’ grease traps and maintenance logs as part of their annual inspection. The

new regulations also include fines issued by DPW (i.e. \$250 for first cleaning) should a backup occur; and a provision that would allow the Building Department to enter and check the restaurant at any time.

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, Ms. Carnes adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink is written across three horizontal lines. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'J. Carnes'. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the signature.

/cam

Next anticipated meeting date: March 9, 2016