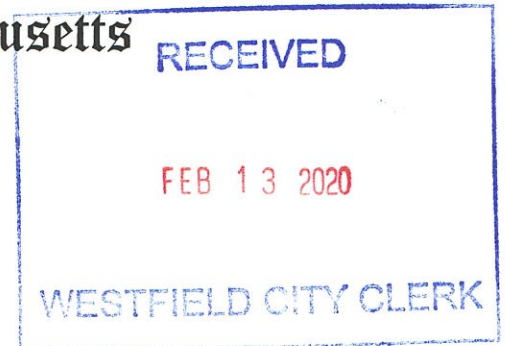




City of Westfield, Massachusetts  
Health Department

Board of Health Meeting  
Room 220  
January 8, 2020



Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Teresa Mitchell, M.D. Margaret Doody

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. Mr. Peter Colo, 51 Oakcrest Dr., Westfield, was present for public participation. He advised the Board that he would be taping a portion of the meeting. The Board began discussing items on the agenda.

Review and Approve Minutes from December 11, 2019 Meeting: The minutes were reviewed and accepted as printed.

Permission to Receive Vaccines: Nurse Debra Mulvenna received permission from the Board to electronically sign documents to receive vaccines from the state.

General Review and Status Update of all Department Divisions: Mr. Rouse advised that, at the beginning of each year, he would like to hold a discussion about what he plans to accomplish during the year.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Peter Colo addressed the Board with regard to a recurring issue at this daughter's home located at 49 Montgomery Rd. Mr. Colo stated that his daughter's house has had sewer backups three times in the last five years resulting in 3-5" of raw sewage in her basement, costing her close to \$20,000. All three times it was determined that the blockage was from Crown St. just outside New Corner Variety. Although DPW cleaned the pipes, a large amount of grease remained in the lines. Mr. Colo believes that the prior owners of the variety store did not clean their grease trap properly. He would like more assistance from the City to assure that this problem does not continue to occur. Although New Corner could not be verified as the source, the Health Dept. will continue to monitor this establishment and provide DEP with a report after each inspection. Mr. Rouse assured Mr. Colo that, should New Corner be definitively ruled out as the source, other areas would be checked. Ms. Margaret Doody also suggested that Mr. Colo contact his City Councilor, Nick Morganelli, to ask for assistance in resolving this matter.

**PUBLIC HEALTH:**

Status Report and Discussion: Mr. Rouse would like to update everyone on the status of the current projects/promotions of the Health Dept.

C.O.R.E. of Greater Westfield: Kathi Cotugno, Coordinator, advised the Board that membership is at 25 members. A community forum is scheduled to introduce the group to the community and gain feedback from them. Ms. Cotugno shared data and statistics with the Board and informed

them that the Fire Dept. will be using a new program for collecting this data. Community Police Office Kevin Bard is performing outreach to approximately five individuals weekly, offering resources and assistance to them as well as their families, thus keeping them off the police logs and providing help instead. Ms. Cotugno also advised that the DART program will be coming to Hampden County, which will help first responders communicate more effectively. She also stated that Baystate has earmarked \$100,000 to Westfield to be used for “opiates only” in the community. Of that, \$25,000 will be used in the ER to continue Narcan training; another \$25,000 will be used to hire a navigator who will locate resources for individuals; and the balance will be used in other areas of the community.

Tobacco: A motion was passed by the Board at a prior meeting limiting the sale of vape products to adult-only establishments. To begin this process, regulations will need to be drafted and posted twice at different intervals, and a public hearing held.

Nursing Division: The nurse position continues to remain vacant. The pool of applicants was not sufficient enough to make a decision, therefore, the advertisement was run a second time. Additional interviews are scheduled.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:**

Status Report and Discussion: Perc testing and septic system issues are being handled effectively. Occasionally, air quality issues will arise, however, we cannot assist with many of them.

### **INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:**

Status Report and Discussion: The Inspectors will be focusing on food inspections. Mr. Rouse may need to assist.

Goals for 2020: Mr. Rouse stated that he would like to develop a plan wherein unofficial food inspections are done on a more frequent basis. Schools should be inspected twice a year.

Housing: Two Howard Street properties continue to be a problem. Mr. Rouse will check to see what the status is regarding this situation. The Community Resource Officer may also be able to assist in this regard.

### **LANDFILL:**

Transfer Station Status Report and Discussion: Mr. Rouse stated that the cost to dispose of trash is \$80-\$90 per ton. The cost associated with our single-stream recycling has drastically risen to \$145 per ton. The City will see an increase of approximately \$500,000 year, which could result in policy changes such as increased fees to residents.

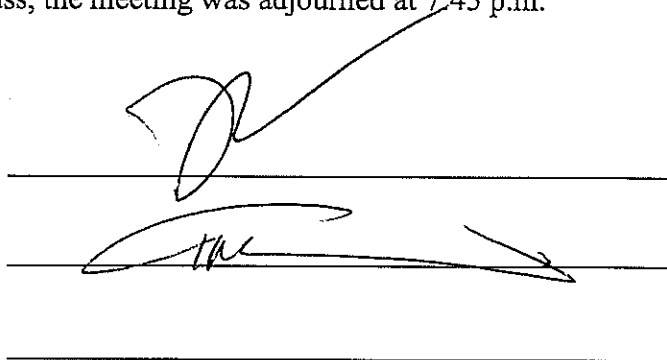
Changes for 2020: Discussions are being held to develop a solution to help reduce the impact these increased costs will have on the City. Changes may need to be made.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

2020 Promotional Topics: Because there is ample information regarding what supplies should be placed in at-home emergency preparedness kits, Mr. Rouse stated that he would like to begin a new promotion wherein citizens can be made aware of what supplies are already available in their home and how to access them in the event of an emergency (i.e. water supply contained in a hot water heater).

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



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*Next anticipated meeting date: February 12, 2020*