

# City of Westfield, Massachusetts

Health Department

Board of Health Meeting

Room 220

May 10, 2023

JUN 15 2023

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Stanley Strzempko, M.D. Carrie Hildreth-Fiordalice

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:09 p.m. For public participation, Jessica Britton and Gabriella Michaleszyn were present. Minutes from the April 12, 2023, meeting were reviewed and accepted as printed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 12, 2023, meeting minutes.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Hildreth-Fiordalice	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Jessica Britton presented the Board with her research into the SARS and MRNA vaccines and their effect on the human body.

Gabriella Michaleszyn continued to present these findings to the Board.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH:**

Appointments of Relevant Staff as Agents of the Board: After a conversation with the state's attorneys, it was suggested that any position representing the department should be appointed as an agent of the Board. A motion was made and seconded to appoint the Assistant Health Director and any and all Public Health Inspectors as agents of the Board of Health.

*The vote was as follows:*

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Hildreth-Fiordalice	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

## **INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:**

19 Green Avenue: As a result of a basement fire, the Health Dept. was called in to inspect this residence. It was determined that the conditions warranted an emergency condemnation as it was unfit for human habitation. Needles, trash and filth were noted throughout the home as a result of substance abuse. This was the third residence in the last week condemned as a result of substance abuse. Owner was instructed to board and secure the residence; and, should someone attempt to gain entry, it would be considered an unlawful entry.

Seasonal Events: The Farmers Market will be opening soon. The Air Show is scheduled for May 13 & 14. Vendors will be inspected prior to opening. A stage will be built on the former Newbury's lot for summer concerts, etc. Concerts were held last year in the vacant lot next to Mina's Wine & Spirits shop with multiple food vendors. This year, Nana's Kitchen will be the exclusive food vendor for these events.

**LANDFILL/TRANSFER STATION:**

Sanitary Landfill and Transfer Station Project Update: The scale is currently operational but not yet being utilized. Twiss Street is newly paved and the railroad crossing has been completely upgraded with newly-installed arms and flashing lights.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

Medical Reserve Corps: Daniel Knapik is working to recruit new members/volunteers so when City-wide events occur, the MRC can be present to assist if necessary. The MRC has a portable cooling center, but it cannot be utilized without the proper staff to operate it. It was suggested that an outreach be done to high school students and churches.

**PERSONNEL:**

Staffing Update (Substance Use Coordinator, Public Health Inspector, Public Health Nurse): The Substance Use Coordinator position has been filled and accepted by Briana Pereira after a second interview was given. Ms. Pereira previously worked for Gandara Center in Westfield and is scheduled to begin on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Her office is located between the City Clerk and Licensing offices.

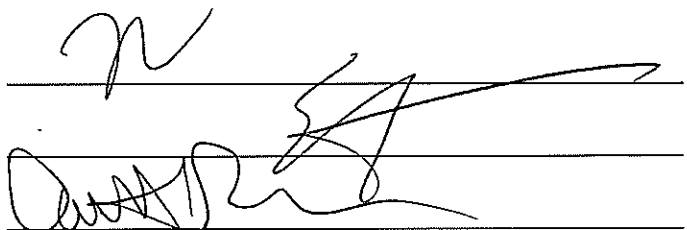
There were three qualified applicants for the position of Public Health Inspector. Reference checks were completed and Ned Saviski will be offered the position. Mr. Saviski previously worked for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance.

There was one candidate for the position of Public Health Nurse, Valerie Grady, RN. It is unknown whether or not Personnel has offered her the position. She is currently the Covid Therapeutic Clinic Nurse at Baystate Noble.

Mr. Rouse requested that the inspector and nurse candidates be offered the high end of the pay grade.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

Two handwritten signatures are written on two horizontal lines. The top signature is a stylized 'N' or similar character. The bottom signature is a more complex, cursive signature.

/cam

*Next anticipated meeting date: June 14, 2023*