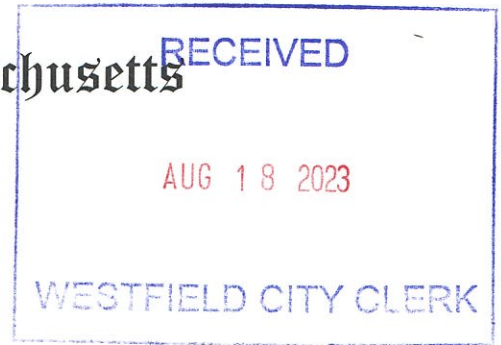




City of Westfield, Massachusetts
Health Department

Board of Health Meeting
Room 220
June 14, 2023



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

Staff: Joseph Rouse, Health Director Debra Mulvenna, Assistant Health Director
Ned Saviski, Health Inspector Cheryl McMordie, Secretary

Chair Carnes opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. There was no one present wishing to speak during public participation. Minutes from the May 10, 2023, meeting were reviewed and accepted as printed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 10, 2023, meeting minutes.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Hildreth-Fiordalice	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

Monthly bills for the Health Department and Transfer Station were signed.

Contract Signature Authority was given to Joseph Rouse, Director and Debra Mulvenna, Assistant Director.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Budget Overview: The budget hearing before City Council was held and there were no cuts to either the Health or Transfer Station budgets. The only questions asked were pertaining to obvious changes to the budget. Many compliments were given by the Council members regarding the organization and cleanliness of the Transfer Station facility. The gatekeepers' salary has been increased from \$12.73 to \$15.50 per hour. They had been making much less than minimum wage. The only item which was cut, by the Mayor, was the Recycling Coordinator position.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:

Code Enforcement Group: Every month a code enforcement meeting is held with members of the Building, Health, Community Development, Planning, Law, and Conservation departments to discuss problem properties. The property maintenance individual has taken a lot of pressure off the Health Dept. by dealing with complaints for high grass, illegal dumping, etc. Currently, about a dozen properties are on the problem-properties list. This group works together to resolve issues.

Dr. Strzempko asked about the status of a property located on East Mountain Road which has been in disrepair for years. Mr. Rouse will follow up on this.

Seasonal Events/Licensing – Events such as the farmers market, fairs, mobile food vendors, pools and camps are beginning to open. Inspector Ned Saviski will be responsible for the farmers market. Last week a lot of the vendors were not there and have not yet been licensed.

LANDFILL/TRANSFER STATION:

Solid Waste Management Fee: The mayor is working to change this fee. Originally it was intended to fund the capping of the landfill and to implement the recycling program. Those have been completed but the fee is still being collected. He would like to increase this fee for other projects. Any changes would need to go through the Board of Public Works and City Council.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Medical Reserve Corps: Daniel Knapik has located the financial information for which he was looking. He can now begin soliciting more volunteers, hold meeting, etc. This group is essential should we need to open cooling/warming centers.

PERSONNEL:

Staffing Update (Substance Use Coordinator, Public Health Inspector, Public Health Nurse): The Substance Use Coordinator will begin on Monday, June 19th.

Debra Mulvenna is working on the vigil.

Mr. Rouse introduced the newest Health Inspector, Ned Saviski. Inspector Saviski provided his background to the Board which included extensive experience in restaurant inspections; he is FDA standardized and has taught the FDA standardization class. He also served as dietary director at a nursing home. He plans to immediately begin restaurant inspections.

Two public health nurse candidates have been interviewed. A call is being made to Tessa Sweeney offering her the position. Debra Mulvenna is waiting for a response from Personnel. Nurse Sweeney previously worked for Spectrum Behavioral Health mobile unit. She also worked in the Baystate Covid unit while a PCT. She will be offered the salary beginning at a Step 2.

Chair Carnes asked about the number of immigrants coming to Westfield. Debra stated that the influx has been very slow.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.


The vote was as follows:

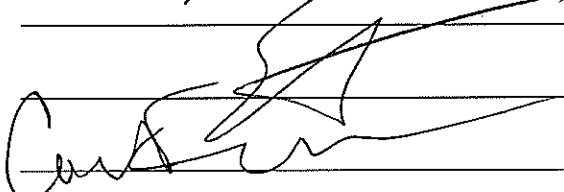
Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Hildreth-Fiordalice	–	Yes

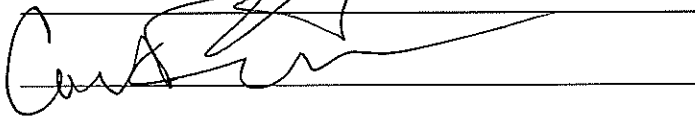
All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Minutes approved by:







/cam

Next anticipated meeting date: July 12, 2023