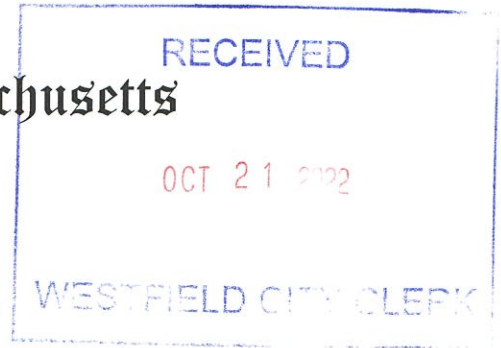




City of Westfield, Massachusetts
Health Department

Board of Health Meeting
Via Telephone Conference
September 14, 2022



Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Stanley Strzempko, M.D. Margaret Doody

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. For public participation, the following individuals were present: Jane Okscin, 341 Shaker Heights, Jessica Britton, 36 Casimir St., and Nancy Kotowicz, 66 Zepher Dr. Minutes from the July 13, 2022, meeting were reviewed and accepted as printed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 13, 2022, meeting minutes.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Doody	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

Contract Signature Authority: Each year, a vote must be made giving individuals the authority to sign contracts for the department. A motion was made and seconded to approve contract signatory authority for Juanita Carnes and Joseph Rouse.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Doody	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

Standing Orders for Flu Clinic: The standing orders were signed by Dr. Strzempko for Nurse Mulvenna and a flu clinic is scheduled at the Senior Center next month, the dates of which are listed on the Council on Aging website.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Jane Okscin addressed the Board stating her opposition to the proposed Nathaniel Hill 20-lot building project citing health and safety concerns.

Jessica Britton questioned why Zoom meeting were being conducted rather than in-person meetings. She also recited an article relative to the ongoing pandemic.

Nancy Kotowicz expressed her safety concerns with the proposed Nathan Hill Estates project.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Covid 19 Update: The Health Department continues to receive counts from PCR tests but not the home tests. The numbers held steady all summer at approximately 50-60 cases per week. From June 1 to the present, the average was approximately 66. At the beginning of February this year, the numbers were up to 270 but decreased to 124 at the end of the month. It hit a low point in March with only 19 cases. But in May, it hit a six-month high. Vaccination percentage is at 64% fully vaccinated. The department continues to conduct contact tracing and is manageable through the nurses' office. The most current count from September 7th, is 51 cases, which may be as a result of returning to school. Ms. Carnes indicated that she has seen an uptick in cases at the clinics. Dr. Strzempko stated that, although he is still seeing many cases of Covid, people are not getting very sick at this point, and there is no pneumonia.

Covid Test Kits and Supplies: All 7,000 free test kits were distributed. Within the next month, the state and federal governments will be supplying an additional 21,000 kits. The table in the basement remains up and stocked with supplies. Thermometers will also now be available free of charge. This information will be placed on the department's Facebook page as well as the City website. Ms. Carnes indicated that pharmacies, with any insurance, are providing 4 packages of two test kits each month as well.

Overdose Awareness Vigil Report: Although Kathi Cotugno no longer works for the City, the vigil was a success and the department will continue this yearly event. It has been decided that the drug task force will remain under the Health Dept. The Mayor will consolidate funding from multiple sources to create a program or subdivision of the department with multiple agencies involved.

TB Testing Fee Discussion: A discussion was held regarding increasing the fees charged for TB testing from \$10 to \$20. A motion was made and seconded to approve the increase of fees for TB testing from \$10 to \$20.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes	-	Yes
Strzempko	-	Yes
Doody	-	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES:

Code Enforcement Report: With two inspectors, Mr. Rouse and the Property Maintenance Enforcer conducting inspections, complaints are being dealt with.

LANDFILL/TRANSFER STATION:

Ongoing Improvements/Projects: Mr. Rouse stated that he spends an inordinate amount of time at the Transfer Station which places a large demand on him. The Mayor has asked that the scale used to weigh trucks be repaired and a trash compactor be installed. Because he is spending 50% of his day conducting Transfer Station business, Mr. Rouse stated he cannot spend much time on Health-

related issues. The Council did not vote to transfer the Transfer Station to DPW at this time because no permanent DPW Director had been appointed.

Revised Motion for Transferring Care, Custody and Control to DPW: The Board was asked to revise the language in its prior motion to transfer the care, custody and control of the Transfer Station to DPW. The Transfer Station and Sanitary Landfill are one parcel. Only the Transfer Station section will be transferred. The capped landfill, properties related to environmental monitoring, drainage and methane reclamation will remain under the control of the Health Department. A motion was made and seconded to transfer the care, custody and control of the Twiss Street Transfer Station to DPW with the exception of the capped landfill, properties related to environmental monitoring, drainage and methane reclamation.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes	–	Yes
Strzempko	–	Yes
Doody	–	Yes

All in favor, the Motion was declared passed.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

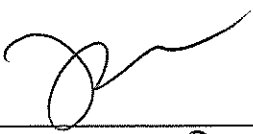
Medical Reserve Corps Update: Things are progressing nicely. A more detailed update will be provided at the next meeting.

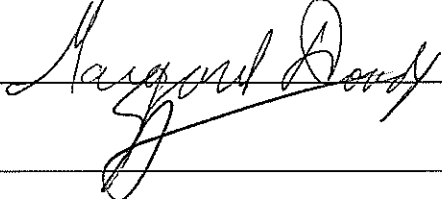
It was noted that a property dispute lasting many years is being resolved. Inspector Hibert has been working to correct the issues on Belanger Road by Hampton Ponds. The property owners were able to purchase an additional lot, which will alleviate the former septic problems.

Mr. Rouse stated that the next meeting will be held live rather than remote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes approved by:





/cam

Next anticipated meeting date: October 12, 2022