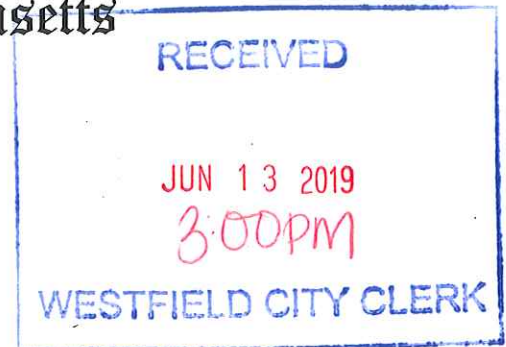




City of Westfield, Massachusetts
Health Department

Board of Health Meeting
Room 220
May 8, 2019



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

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The Minutes of the March 13, 2019, meeting were reviewed and accepted as printed. Councilor Matthew Emmershy was present as the Landfill/Waste and Recycling liaison. The Board began discussing items on the agenda.

Board of Health Member Appointments and Survey – Margaret Doody has recently been appointed to the Board. Juanita currently needs to be reappointed, which is in the process of being done. Joseph Rouse received a survey from the City Clerk directed to the Board for the purpose of updating the City's website. Mr. Rouse agreed to complete this survey.

Signature Authority – The Purchasing Department's Contract Signature Authorization forms were presented to the Board members for their signatures.

Budget Discussion – The Health and Sanitary Landfill departments have gone through the first round of budget hearings, voluntarily making cuts where possible. The City Auditor was very pleased with this. It will now be presented to the Finance Committee for their review.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None scheduled.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Drug Task Force Update – The Coordinator, Kathleen Sitler, has resigned. Kathi Cotugno, a current member of the Task Force, is interested in this open position. It was agreed that the primary focus of this group should be on opioid/heroin/overdose prevention. Mr. Rouse stated that he would speak with Kathi to be certain that she is aware of these goals.

Tick Prevention Discussion– The Mayor has received numerous complaints from residents regarding the amount of ticks in City parks and playgrounds. Mr. Rouse has received signs from the CDC stating ways in which to avoid tick bites. They were shown to the Board members and will be put on display in specific areas.

HCHC – The department is still involved, however, there is no new activity. They do, still, provide some helpful materials.

LANDFILL:

Discussion of Transfer Station Policies – Because several departments have an involvement in the workings of the Transfer Station, Mr. Rouse held an informational meeting wherein all parties were advised of the policies and practices of the Transfer Station. One of the largest complaints among residents is that they must purchase an entrance sticker to dispose of leaves and grass clippings. It was suggested that no entrance permit be required for Westfield residents wishing to dispose of leaf and grass clippings only. Proof of residency would need to be presented to the gatekeeper. An additional concern is the cost to dispose of a sectional sofa. A suggestion was made that a sticker be required for each piece of the sectional as opposed to one sticker for the entire sectional sofa. A motion was made and seconded to allow Westfield residents to dispose of leaves and grass clippings without having to purchase an entrance sticker and at no cost.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes	-- Yes
Mitchell	-- Yes

All in favor, the motion was declared passed.

No action was taken on the sectional sofa issue; therefore, the current practice remains in place.

NEW BUSINESS:

Susan Drive Condemnation – Mr. Rouse recently received a call regarding a home on Susan Drive which had sustained a fire. It was determined that a condemnation order/order to vacate would be issued due to the unhealthy, unsanitary conditions in the home, unrelated to the fire. The insurance adjuster will be sending a cleaning crew to the residence to clean and restore the home. The residents will not be allowed to move back into the home until this has been completed. The Building Dept. will determine whether or not temporary housing will be allowed on the site while these repairs are being done.

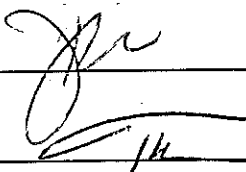
YMCA Meeting – An effort is being made to pull resources and individuals together so that more can be accomplished in the community.

Woronoco/Holland Ave. Corner House – This house has been vacant for months, is missing doors, in disrepair, and the grounds are not being maintained. Mr. Rouse stated that the City's Health Inspectors will check it out.

64 Mill Street – This home sustained a fire a number of years ago and has remained vacant since that time. It was recently sold and the new owner has filed a demolition request with the Zoning Board of Appeals. He wishes to rebuild on the current footprint and, in the interim, has agreed to maintain the grounds and board up the house.

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



/cam

Next anticipated meeting date: June 12, 2019