

# WEST NEWBURY BOARD OF HEALTH

West Newbury, MA

## MINUTES

December 8, 2020 at 4:30pm

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BOARD: Robert Janes-Chairman, Blake Seale-Member, Thomas Fahey-Member

HEALTH AGENT: Paul Sevigny

ADMIN ASS'T: Jane Krafton

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Angus Jennings-Town Manager, Glenn Kemper-Selectman, Rick Parker-Selectman, Robert Danforth-Pentucket School Facilities Manager, Laura Bellacqual-resident, Chris Reading-School Committee Member, Katie Gagnon-resident, Daniel Thornton-Assistant Vice Principal of Pentucket Regional High School, and Matt Gagnon-Pentucket Youth Basketball League.

R. Janes Chairman opened meeting at 4:30 and read the Meeting Notice Addendum to Remote Participation.

### **I. BUSINESS:**

- Reviewed minutes November 10, 2020. **APPROVED 2-0-1** (R. Janes abstained)
- Steele Landfill update. Health Agent stated that the project was status quo.
- Discussed meeting date for January 2021. Board agreed to meet on January 12, 2021.
- Review and discuss FY22 Budget proposal. **TABLED for January 12, 2021.**
- Covid-19 Updates-
  - Discuss Mill Pond parking. Board agreed that the parking permit requirements should be lifted. Selectmen are schedule to discuss at a later date.
- Discussed Mello automated cart program.
  - Proposed automated cart fees. B. Seale suggested that Jason Mello be consulted on whether or not some of the larger bulky items should require 2 “Bulk” item stickers.
  - Proposed automated cart regulation. T. Fahey suggested the word “qualifying” be replaced with “approved” when planning on which households will receive delivery of carts. Board will revisit and define “approved” at a later meeting.
  - Pricing on mattress/box spring recycling program with Newburyport, cost for each item is \$21for the current program. W. Newbury resident will be responsible for \$20 and Newburyport will invoice the W. Newbury Board of Health \$1 per recycled item on a monthly basis.
  - Reviewed change in Trash/Recycling flyer. B. Seale and T. Fahey approved. R. Janes will review later and will touch base tomorrow with Krafton.

- Perc extension request 331 Main Street. **APPROVED 3-0-0**
- Krafton request 12/26 Saturday vacation and 12/29 Monday vacation. **APPROVED 3-0-0**
- Discuss “Contact Tracers” hourly rate. \$25 non-RN and \$35 for RN. Health Agent received “vendor” invoicing approval from Town Accountant on expenses.

## **II. APPOINTMENTS:**

- Public Call-in appointment for basketball program. R. Janes opened the phones and welcomed comments/questions for discussion at 4:45. Facilities Director for the schools Robert Danforth began with addressing the interest in cleanliness and his department would handle this issue. Laura Bellacqual-speaking on the behalf of basketball families, thanked the board for holding meeting and suggested that everyone work towards a discussion based on science in order to come to a solution that would get the kids playing ball.

Glenn Kemper asked if today’s announcement from the Governor regarding “roll-back” on phases would have any effect on this discussion. Health Agent P. Sevigny explained the more restrictive phase is geared towards gathering limits, restaurants, and gyms that the new rollback doesn’t directly effect this discussion.

Chris Reading stated that she felt that the rules set forth from Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) can be followed and expressed that the kids want to play and will follow the rules in order to do so. Also, that the safest place for west Newbury kids to play ball would be in West Newbury and not in another town that would not follow the MIAA rules.

G. Kemper requested clarification on what sports leagues/teams this decision is to make for. H.A. Sevigny clarified that discussion/vote this evening is for all basketball being held in town facilities, specifically the High School and Page School.

Katie Gagnon explained that the impact of not being able to play is a negative impact and other towns are allowing their children to play basketball.

Daniel Thornton stated that some sports are having better success than that of other sports, also wanted board to know that there will no fans allowed to attend the games/practices.

R. Janes stated he review and read the material provided by Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and Executive Office of Energy and Environment Affair (EEA) and there is a contradiction on whether basketball is a high risk sport or not. G. Kemper wondered if possibly the season of this league could be pushed to the spring. R. Janes asked if any other callers would like to speak and would be now allowing the BOH to give their thoughts.

T. Fahey began with reviewing the Mission Statement of the Board of Health. During his decision process he tried to project this activity on the health and wellness of the West

Newbury citizens. T. Fahey reviewed MIAA, and EEA guidelines, local Covid-19 Metrix and other documents and then interviewed Health Agent, Public Health Nurse, and Pentucket Regional School; he stated that there is no history of student positive Covid-19 cases that have originated from the school environment. Also, the Public Health Nurse has the ability to monitor, in real time and identify cases from school activity and act to prevent further exposure. However, his bottom line opinion is “we don’t know if this sport could increase the Covid-19 cases within the community”. T. Fahey’s personal **notes ATTACHED**

B. Seale also after reviewing all provided documents stated that he doesn’t believe this to be the best idea in regards to whole of West Newbury’s public safety. However, should the Board vote to approve, B. Seale strongly suggest additional restrictions to supplement the 2020-1021 MIAA Guidelines for Basketball.

R. Janes stated the Board of Health is charged with the responsibility of trying to protect all community members and has reservations regarding the basketball program. With that said he believes that provided restrictions and guidelines implemented and adhered to by all involved it could be possible to have a safe program.

**T. Fahey made a motion to approve use of the gymnasiums at the Pentucket High School and the Page Elementary School for basketball with the following requirements:**

1. Anyone using the facility must follow the Winter 2020-2021 MIAA Guidelines for basketball.
2. The requirement for proper cleaning would be based on Pentucket Regional School District Facilities approved cleaning protocols.
3. ALL players, coaches, referees, game officials, spectators and visiting team are required to wear facial covering. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
4. The Board of Health will monitor compliance of the MIAA Guidelines by the teams.
5. The Board of Health will monitor for Pentucket Regional District positive Covid-19 cases in any case-tracing that links to the indoor basketball program.
6. The Board of Health can withdraw its approval for the use of the Pentucket High School and Page School gyms if the use itself, is cause to a public health risk.

B. Seale seconded the motion. R. Janes asked for a roll call vote: **APPROVED 3-0-0**

B. Seale wants to make it clear “No Mask No Play” and reiterated that with this unanimous vote, everyone involved with this program needs to realize that this approval comes with risk and it is now the responsibility of players, coaches and ALL involved with the program to keep it safe for the sake of the whole community.

D. Thornton is in agreement and stated facial coverings are non-negotiable. Health Agent and PRSD Facilities Director will work together and field all complaints and issues.

### III. SEPTIC PLANS:

- **150 Main Street**, Christopher Wile #20-21. **APPROVED 3-0-0**

### IV. FYI: No Action Needed

- Next meeting January 12, 2020

### **R. Janes Adjourned Meeting at 6:30pm**

*Board of Health Meeting  
December 8, 2020 4:30pm*

#### Addendum to Meeting Notice regarding Remote Participation

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the West Newbury Board of Health will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible.*

*Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of West Newbury website, at [www.wnewbury.org](http://www.wnewbury.org). For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner:*

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*No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best effort, we will post on the Town of West Newbury website an audio or video recording, transcript. or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as practicable after the meeting.*

