



## OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

**BOARD OF HEALTH** – April 28, 2025

Hybrid Meeting, Recorded

LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

Members in Attendance: Andrew Petty, Tom McMahon, Tom Massaro, Helaine Hazlett

Public Hearing - Regulations Prohibiting the Manufacture, Sale, or Distribution of Synthetic Cannabinoids

The detailed regulations were available at the hearing. Mr. Petty noted that these are prohibited at the state level; it is important to have regulations at the local level: this allows the tobacco control officer to look for their presence in local stores and then engage enforcement. He further said that these compounds are changing all the time, sold under different names, and we don't what they do in the long term. These items are often sold in convenience stores. In MHD currently no stores carry these products. Mr. McMahon said these regulations were both proactive and important. Dr. Massaro said that we have no idea what downsides might be and it is important to educate the community. There were no comments from the public. The regulations were passed unanimously.

Public Hearing - Regulations for Body Art Establishments and Practitioners

These detailed regulations were available at the hearing. The last set of regulations was made in 2008 and needed to be made current. Although MHD does not have any body art establishments currently, neighboring communities (e.g. Salem) do. Much of the discussion centered around fees - permit \$500, application \$750, plan application \$400, practitioner PMU (permanent make up) \$350, guest practitioner PMU \$200. There were no comments from the public. The regulations were passed unanimously.

Bills - Mr. McMahon read the vendor's names and bills since the last meeting.

Board of Health Powers and Duties

This discussion was about what the above powers and duties are. Legal counsel had given their view on these, but Dr. Massaro averred that these should go beyond these

minimums. He wants these to be seen as “interesting” and “exciting”. Some discussion followed and Dr. Massaro offered to rework the document with more emphasis on the positive and to include the waste department.

#### Director’s Report

Mr. Petty said that Mr. McMahon will present at Town Meeting all the work that has been done in the waste department and what is planned for next year. Of note, the currently favorable trash collection contract will soon expire, and the next contract will be much more expensive and have a huge impact. Mr. Petty will be working with Fin Com.

There may have to be changes in curbside pickup for trash and recycling. Currently the limit is 65 gallons per household of trash, and no limit on recycling. Trash collection is done for single-family up to four apartment units. This may all have to be revisited with new bylaws in the future.

On a separate subject, when the prospect for an assistant health director was considered, it was deemed necessary for another truck F150, as the health director and assistant both have additional duties, including at times curbside trash pickup. The loss of this position will mean that the department will often be short staffed - lean staffing, illness, etc. as main causes. There was subsequent discussion about funding the assistant HD from the waste revolving fund (commercial users pay for disposal of their waste.) Mr. Petty will track all the costs from curbside, recycling, etc., to see this possibility. The addition of an assistant health director was to manage the waste side of the health department, a task that consumes much Mr. Petty’s time, and it would allow him to concentrate more on the health side.

(Some of the board members felt “blindsided” by the loss of the assistant health director. The position had been in the budget that was first formulated in September and subsequently voted on by the BOH in March. Then two weeks ago the position was dropped. One board member did not think that this position was just “hypothetical”; he further thought that this should have been an agenda item with much more discussion. Another board member felt that the addition of such a position was something the board should approve. Mr. Petty noted that no other MHD department operated that way. Regardless of whose decision it should be, the position would have to be approved at Town Meeting.)

Public Comment: One resident spoke very favorably about the new traffic pattern for the residential and commercial traffic. Mr. Petty added that new signs about this pattern will soon be posted.