



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

BOARD OF HEALTH – June 3, 2025

Hybrid Meeting - Recorded

LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

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

Prior to discussing the items on the agenda, Mr. Petty lauded Ms. Hazlett for her years of work and dedication to the BOH and his enjoyment with working with her. Ms. Joanne Miller, a former BOH member, followed with a tribute to Ms. Hazlett for her decades of volunteering in Marblehead: decades on the BOH, founder of the MHD Task Force Against Discrimination, years on the School Committee, support for the creation of MHD Mental Health Task Force, etc. She also thanked Ms. Hazlett for “slowing down” to let Ms. Miller understand the history and process of the transfer station renovations. Ms. Hazlett was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and another of roses.

Community Health/CAHM - U Mass Boston Health Assessment Contract:

Dr. Massaro updated the board about the continuing work on the health assessment. A contract has been signed. A five-person team (Dr Massaro, Ms. Joanne Miller, Mr. Petty, two others from the U Mass Boston Collin Center) will continue to meet this summer so that the health assessment may start just after Labor Day. He hopes there will be a high response.

Dr. Massaro is continuing to meet with various health groups, pediatric and OB/GYN in terms of maternal and child health needs. The MHTF merging with the MCC is moving forwards. On 6/24 Dr. Massaro will make a short presentation of the CAHM to the Select Board, and after the summer a detailed presentation by Dr. Coyle of the U Mass Boston assessment group will present to the Select Board. Dr. Massaro reminded the group (and the community) that NO TAX DOLLARS are involved in this study.

Assistant Director Waste Department

The need for an assistant director for the waste department was discussed in detail. In particular the waste removal contract for FY27 for the town is coming up and will require much time getting bids, contracting, etc. - a task for Mr. Petty as head of the department. (Of note, much

has changed in the waste removal and recycling environment. The costs for waste removal and recycling have significantly increased. No longer is the town receiving money for recycling - now the town will have to pay for it. Much will have to be reviewed about curbside waste removal: will there have to be a limit of 65 gallons for each resident, will businesses have to pay for pickup, etc. In addition to the contract, much time is spent with phone calls, emails, filling in for employees out at the transfer station, picking up waste missed by the truck, etc. Mr. Petty would like to be able to split his time 50:50 with the waste and health department which he has not been able to do. An assistant waste director would allow this to happen.

The salary for this position is in the waste budget, and in the first year will be entirely paid by the waste department's revolving funds (these are fees that are collected from construction, demolition and other disposal), so NO TAX DOLLARS. Mr. McMahon wants to track the time spent on the transfer station and separately town trash removal, so in the future the salary could be divided fairly between the revolving funds and the town. Mr. Petty is to write a job description based on the criteria for other assistant directors.

As to a hiring date, this could be as soon as 7/1/25, so if approved by the board, the interviews could begin now. The board after consideration moved and passed for this to proceed. The job will be posted internally for 1 week and then externally.

Directors Report

Household Hazardous Waste Day - HHWD was again very successful with 203 cars coming the Saturday from 9am-noon. Mr. Petty discussed having another HHWD in fall, perhaps as before on a Wednesday from 4-7 pm which was very well attended.

Transfer Station Construction Update - Mr. Petty discussed going ahead with the initial steps of doing the site work and the scale house, and then seeing what funds were left over for other projects (e.g. the swap shed). Because this will have to go out for rebidding again, there are additional costs to Winter Street for the architect, structural engineer, estimator, civil engineer, etc. These all total approximately \$26,000. The board moved and passed two motions: first, to go ahead with the site work and scale house; secondly, for \$26K to pay Winter Street Architects for the rebidding.

Republic - Prevailing Wage Rate Increase FY 25 and FY 26 - the contracts with Republic (waste removal company) stipulate that their workers have to be paid the prevailing wage increases. As a consequence, the amount paid to them will be \$61K for FY25, and \$74K for FY26.

Executive Session - pursuant to Mass General Law, Chapter 30A, 21 (a)(2) - contract negotiations with non-union personnel, specifically, the Health Director Employment contract