



BOARD OF HEALTH - 8-7-23

Hybrid meeting- Recorded

LWVM Observer: Tom Krueger

Members in Attendance: Andrew Petty, Tom McMahon, Joanne Miller, Helaine Hazlett

Prior to proceeding to the agenda Ms. Hazlett made some remarks regarding issues that had arisen: BOH business should be conducted at the meetings; her use of the Transfer Center was only on BOH business; comments about board members by other board members was not called for; all motions should proceed through the chair. Mr. McMahon took issue with Ms. Hazlett, citing an email that he had seen.

Ms. Miller wished to find out how long Ms. Hazlett had been on the BOH and her other contributions to the town. Ms. Hazlett noted her first involvement in the town was at the PTO when her children were in school. From there her involvement in the town has spanned 40 years, and has included serving on the School Board, founding the Task Force Against Discrimination, Friends of the Public School, Dollars for Scholars, etc. She has served on the BOH for over 25-30 years. Ms. Miller lauded Ms. Hazlett for her valuable contributions and wished the board could continue forward positively and with respect.

Agenda

1.Minutes 7/1/23 - approval of these would be voted on next meeting as Mr. McMahon had not had an opportunity to see and review them.

2. MHTF (Mental Health Task Force)

Ms. Miller reported that the last meeting was of a subcommittee of the task force in July when a robust group attended. The subcommittee was beginning the discussion of realigning the priorities and goals for the task force for next year and hopefully the next 3 years. Priorities that had arisen during COVID have now changed. (Chris Bosworth facilitated this conversation.) Ms. Miller noted that over the past 6 months they had lacked a goal, but now was the time to move forward, keeping members involved and having the "right" people. There was discussion about having "backup" people for members so that a quorum would be attained. (Note: the subcommittee was less than half the membership of the MHTF, so was not a public meeting.) The schools are represented by the new MHS principal and a social worker from MHS. The next meeting will be at the end of August before school starts.

3. Transfer Station

Credit card use? - Mr. Petty presented the idea to the BOH for the transfer station to begin taking credit cards for payment. He noted that there are over 400 commercial accounts that are billed monthly and on-line option would be of great convenience. Also, the process of recording at the TS, inputting the receipts, and billing are very labor intensive for the HD. One such system that is being evaluated is the SQUARE credit card reader, which is already used by many businesses. (Payment by check or cash would also continue.) The investment in the reader and cash register would cost \$750 and \$350, respectively. The transaction fees that would be added to the users' bill would be 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction for account holders, and 2.6% + \$0.30 for residents. (The cost of the user fee is passed on to the user.) The system would be installed at the TS office and could also be installed at the booth for residential traffic. No additional employees would be needed.

The board moved for Mr. Petty to proceed with a further evaluation of the credit card transactions.

Facility Stickers - Facility stickers are also a part of a larger discussion about who the users of the TS are and who would we want them to be. This will be an agenda item for September.

Further discussion ensued about the absence of stickers, display of stickers, etc. Mr. McMahon presented an automated system for possible use - Eagle Eye Network - which is a camera that would "read" the license plate and compare these to the registered users. Delinquent users could be flagged, notified and fined (a law would need to be passed for this option). The system would work much like EasiPass for toll roads, etc.

Currently there is not a network at the TS so implementation could not proceed now. The town of MHD is to get a network soon.

The discussion then moved into the revenue from stickers for FY 23 as compared to FY22, the former being less than the latter. Why? Yard piles are larger this year. From here the discussion proceeded to the cost of removal of yard waste, processing on- or offsite (less expensive if processed on-site), how to minimize costs by maximizing loads, etc. From here the discussion meandered to the cost of recycling (which goes up every year, especially as there is no revenue from paper or cardboard recycling). (Mr. Petty then reminded residents that recycling can only be according to MA state guidelines. A flyer about recycling items is sent to all residents each year and it is important for residents to read this.)

At this point Mr. McMahon led the discussion into talking about finding revenue for the TS where it can. And this continued into the TS accepting C&D (construction and demolition) material (DEP allows 20% of material in trailers to be C&D), costs, size of trucks allowed (e.g. could larger trucks have a "white line" indicating the 5 cubic yards that are permissible by DEP), an enclosure on the TS site to use as a sorting floor, etc. Mr. Petty in response noted that there would be an increased employee cost and a different permitting by MA DEP. (Currently DEP has allowed 2 trailer loads of C&D per week for the MDH TS. Perhaps they could decide that it is just too much for a residential site. The difficulty that arises when using C&D trailers is other trailers have

to be switched out, a time-consuming step, and it would only be on Tuesday and Thursday, leaving contractors to find other options on other days.)

Mr. Petty reminded all that there are other priorities that would come first, i.e., the renovation of the transfer station. Only after that was completed could they look and determine the economics. Next step is to present to the MHD Planning Board the TS plans (building - scale house, compactor, swap shed, kiosk, etc; traffic flow), then finalizing plans with the architects, etc. to begin the bidding process. And he reiterated that it is the residents whom we want to serve.

Mr. Petty went on to remind people that the employees deserve RESPECT. They often work 6 days a week. Ms. Miller emphasized what a tremendous resource the TS is and can't understand the people's attitudes. Mr. McMahon opined that he thought the cost of the sticker was a major factor. Ms. Hazlett said there is an abatement for qualified households.

Finally, Mr. McMahon moved that Mr. Petty look further into license plate readers. This passed 3-0. A further motion about the "white lines" on large trucks, etc. was tabled as other board members needed to learn more about the entire process.

4. Website

Mr. Petty asked the board members to look at, research, and review changes to HD website on the town's website for the next meeting. Mr. McMahon presented his "stab" at it.

5. Director's Report

Beaches - Grace Oliver failed testing last week and only one failure closes that beach. It was closed on Wednesday; a repeat test on Thursday passed; the beach was reopened on Friday. Notification is in multiple places: town website, emails, and a sign hanging at the beach indicating its closure.

MIAA - (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) - Mr. Petty handed out an information sheet which discussed boards, codes of conduct, guidelines for risk management, etc. (He also handed out a sheet for Robert's Rule of Order.)

Flu Clinic - there will be two clinics: one for seniors >65, hi dose on 9/26 9-11; a second one for town employees on 10/11.

Other. - COVID is always around. The HD still has test kits that will expire by 9/28. The same guidelines pertain: test if sick; if positive quarantine for 5 days, and wear a mask for 5 more days, etc; follow CDC guidelines.

6. Public Comment

One resident had a question about recycling textiles. Mr. Petty answered that there were bins at the TS and items wearable or not should be cleaned, placed in a plastic bag, and put into a bin. If it can't be worn, it will be recycled to rags. If an item is totally soiled, it can be placed in the trash.

Another resident had a number of questions and comments - happy about the replacement of a staff trailer, reiterated how poorly people treat the employees, compared to other towns how lucky we are to have a TS, wanted to have residents given priority for C&D, how poor the website is for the HD compared to other towns, etc.

One resident wanted a copy of the email referred in the first paragraph.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting on 9/12/23 at 7:30 pm