

Board of Health in Person at Town Hall
334 Main Street Great Barrington, MA 01230
Thursday, March 2, 2023

1. Call to Order: (Roll Call Vote) – Chairman Michael Lanoue opened the meeting via Zoom at 6:30pm with a roll call vote: Dr. Ruby Chang, “aye,” Michael Lanoue, “aye Peter Stanton, “aye.” Also present: Health Agent, Rebecca Jurczyk.

2. Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2023 (Discussion/ Vote)

P. Stanton made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting; R. Chang seconded. M. Lanoue asked if any discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: R. Chang, “aye,” M. Lanoue, “aye,” P. Stanton, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

3. Board of Health Questions/Updates

- a. M. Lanoue stated the BOH April meeting will include a discussion on glyphosate and whether to have a policy or regulation. He suggested a regulation is a better approach, if it is as simple as possible. He asked the Board think about it in advance of the meeting.

4. BOARD OF HEALTH BUSINESS

- a. Recommendation to Selectboard on how Opioid Settlement funds are spent. (Discussion/ Vote)
R. Jurczyk stated the request here is to make a positive recommendation to the Selectboard on allocating these funds. She stated there is one request from the Rural Recovery Center which was sent to the Board detailing the project focus, funding request and timeline. She pointed out that the Center’s funding is up in August and is seeking funds to remain operational – and that the Center meets settlement funding criteria. She clarified that the Board makes a recommendation to the Selectboard and they issue a warrant for a Town Meeting vote to appropriate from the general fund.
 - i. R. Chang stated she has questions on the Center’s plans, goals, etc. and wanted to ask about its chemical tester/analysis capabilities especially for animal tranquilizers - or if they can obtain the results. She also asked about capacity for sharps collection. R. Jurczyk replied the Town owns two sharps kiosks - one is at the Center and the other at the Heath Department – there are also take home canisters for sharps. She continued to state there is not a testing machine at the Center and is not sure if that being considered, but Berkshire Harm Reduction has the capacity maybe in the GB office, but definitely in Pittsfield. She stated regarding animal tranquilizer testing, that might be a question for Berkshire Harm Reduction. R. Change also asked about using the funds for educational purposes at schools. R. Jurczyk stated the decision needs to be made before the warrant is set for Town Meeting. It was agreed that the Center should be invited to the April meeting and the item was tabled.
 - i. Eileen Mooney asked where these funds come from and how much is it. She also noted the warrant will need to be done by April 17. R. Jurczyk replied the funds come from federal and state settlements with pharmaceutical companies and drug stores. She noted the total to be allocated annually is approximately \$10,000 and she would send the exact figures to E. Mooney.
- b. SP # 933-23; Special Permit application from the Great Barrington Affordable Housing Trust, c/o White Engineering, Inc., with Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, to permit a Planned Unit Residential Development of new residential homes at 0 North Plain Road, Map 26, Lot 53A, in accordance with Sections 3.1.4 A(9), 8.5 and 10.4 of the Zoning Bylaw. (Discussion/ Vote)
 - i. Brent White, White Engineering and Carolyn Valli, Executive Director, Central

Berkshire Habitat for Humanity presented. B. White provided a site plan for the housing development and covered in detail the 7.25-acre property layout, home styles/sizes, infrastructure, utilities, access, etc. He highlighted that water filtration systems would be installed in each home to address manganese and other water quality issues - and noted Housatonic Water Works confirmed the water pressure/volume would be adequate. He also noted there are no environmental concerns/issues for the project. He stated the plan was discussed with the Planning Board and at that time 20 units were planned for the development – he continued to state the Planning Board asked that 30 homes be built in order to provide additional workforce housing. B. White described changes that were made in the plan in the siting and proximity of houses, sidewalks, green space, etc. to accommodate. He also noted the homes are net zero ready and high efficiency.

- ii. R. Chang asked about solar panels and expressed concerns about the cost of electricity – B. White replied appliances/systems have optimal energy efficiency. She also asked about the need/expense to change water filters frequently due to manganese in the water – B. White stated a single vendor could be used to reduce costs – and the system would be chosen that is most cost effective to operate and maintain. It was confirmed that individual/shared wells cannot be installed.
- iii. M. Lanoue asked for questions/comments from the public –
 - James Bailly asked if the water filtration system would address the HAA5 issue – B. White stated he would look into it. J. Bailly also asked about the flow of water to existing residents on the same line and noted that increased demand can increase rust/manganese and there are residents on that the line that do not have filters. He asked who would be responsible to address any adverse impact. He stated there are concerns about the well-being of residents due to the risk of increased water quality issues. M. Lanoue clarified the Board of Health does not have jurisdiction over Housatonic Water Works as it is a public water supply. B. White stated the homes would be built over four phases and stated perhaps over time the water issues would be addressed – and stressed there is no intention to hurt current residents. There was further discussion about noise and light issues on the property which would be addressed through home insulation and trees to muffle noise and moderate level street lighting.
- iv. M. Lanoue asked about the average cost of the homes per square foot – C. Valli replied it is almost \$300 per square foot, but they are trying to get the cost down. M. Lanoue asked about the lifespan for roofing and windows – C. Valli replied it is 30+ years for roofs and they are using higher end/efficiency windows. M. Lanoue asked why the Planning Board asked for the increased density – C. Valli replied the Planning Board wanted 40 units and compromised on 30 – she noted the units will be build over time to manage the impact on the neighborhood and the Town. M. Lanoue asked about how the number of units impacts valuation – C. Valli replied there are deed restrictions with resale values.
- v. M. Lanoue acknowledged concerns that were expressed about the water filtration system and the added demand and impact for the public water supply on existing residents. The Board agreed these are important concerns. P. Stanton stated the potential water quality issues for customers cannot be controlled or known, all we can do is express concern – M. Lanoue added the Selectboard is the Special Permit granting authority and can require more assurances than the Board of Health. R. Chang stated it is important to address who will be responsible for any issues and how to remediate if there are problems – she noted a plan should be in place for mitigation. It was noted Housatonic Water Works is responsible and a plan for mitigation can be suggested, but not enforced. The Board discussed and finetuned its recommendation to the Selectboard for optimal clarity and completeness.

P. Stanton made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that the following concerns be taken into consideration – the cost of effective water filtration systems and the potential negative effect on current

Housatonic Water Works customers in the area and in the event there is such an impact, to have a mitigation plan in place to deal with such an eventuality; R. Chang seconded. M. Lanoue asked if any additional discussion – there was none. Roll call vote: R. Chang, “aye,” M. Lanoue, “aye,” P. Stanton, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0.

5. Health Department Updates:

- a. Housing Updates – R. Jurczyk stated one correction order was issued for 41 Russell Street – there was one violation and the landlord is aware. She noted there is a 30-day deadline. She also stated Construct asked for a preliminary inspection of a potential emergency shelter and the Health Department has submitted a report.
- b. 2023 Rabies Clinic – R. Jurczyk stated the Clinic will be on March 19 at the Fire Station – and the Clinic will also offer there be dog license renewals as well as advice on pet disaster planning.
- c. Budget FY24 – R. Jurczyk reported the first-round budget review was held and went well - and public hearing on March 22.
- d. Added item – R. Jurczyk stated Towns are being required to update local tobacco regulations as they are out of compliance with state regulations. Tri-Town Health and the MA Association of Public Health Boards are leading on this and she suggested they be invited to the April meeting to brief the Board on changes to the current regulations - and a public hearing can be held in May. The Board agreed.
- e. Added item – R. Jurczyk stated there are updated model well regulations that the Town can adopt to update our current local well regulations – she clarified there are no state regulations. She highlighted that the new model requires testing for PFAS – and noted PFAS in the water supply is one of our stated priorities. She stated it would be added as a summer agenda item and will send the new guidelines to the Board.
- f. Added item – R. Jurczyk stated there are small sharps containers available at the Health Department office and anyone who needs one can come by.
- g. Added items – R. Jurczyk stated she and Stephen Browning will be taking pool inspector training; Berkshire harm Reduction’s Spring Dinner is on March 30 and their mobile unit will be there; and there will be a Health Department book display at the Library April 3-9 – she stated she has chosen some books, but asked the board to send any recommendations.

6. CITIZEN SPEAK TIME

- a. Eileen Mooney asked about timing for the Rabies Clinic – R. Jurczyk replied there is no time yet, but she will send to Eileen as soon as it is set.

7. MEDIA QUESTIONS: There were none.

8. ADJOURNMENT: (Roll Call Vote) - P. Stanton made a motion to adjourn; R. Chang seconded. Roll call vote: R. Chang, “aye,” M. Lanoue, “aye,” P. Stanton, “aye.” All in favor: 3-0. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Ostrow, Recording Clerk