

BOARD OF
Health
MEETING
MINUTES

October 6, 2021
Town Hall 1 Main St., Upton, MA 01568

1 The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chairman, Ted Briggs. Also in
2 attendance were; member, Al Holman; member, Richard Desjardins; and asst. public
3 health supervisor, Diane Tiernan.

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5 Agenda was reviewed and accepted.

6
7 Laurie Wooden was in attendance.

8 Minutes to the previous meeting were reviewed.

9 **Motion One** – Richard made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting
10 dated 9/16/21 with amendments. Al seconded the motion and Ted made the motion
11 unanimous. Minutes were approved with amendments.

12
13 Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

14
15 A request for an extension of a septic design for 150 Glenview Street- Paul Winshman
16 was reviewed. The original permit expired 5/31/21.

17 **Motion two** – Richard made a motion to grant a one-year extension of the septic
18 permit for 150 Glenview Street. Al seconded the motion and Ted made the motion
19 unanimous. Extension was granted.

20
21 Food permits were reviewed for: Little Coffee Bean – Main Street, and Upton Bloomer
22 Girls- a one day event at BVT.

23 **Motion three** - Richard made a motion to approve of the above food permits. Al
24 seconded the motion and Ted made the motion unanimous. Food permits were
25 approved.

26
27 Board discussed the present Covid situation in Upton. There are 7 active cases
28 currently. A clinic will be held in November at the Senior Center in Upton for Covid
29 boosters for all seniors over the age of 65.

30
31 Board reviewed the resignation from food inspector, Janice Skinner. With regret, the
32 Board accepted her resignation. Diane stated we can start using the inspectors
33 through shared service that were recently hired with grant money, on 10/19/21.

34
35 Board discussed a request from the Planning Board and Technology Committee for a
36 study on the safety of 5G for Upton Residents. Diane stated there were numerous
37 studies done online that she has reviewed, but shared the most recent and what she
38 felt was most accurate information with the Board. She is unsure of who could do a
39 private study for Upton, that was non-biased. There is a wealth of information that
40 takes both sides regarding the safety of the 5G.

41 Al stated according to this material, there is a cancer risk in high doses of EMF
42 emissions. He does not feel the doses from the 5G hardware are a concern. There is
43 just as much EMF floating around inside this room right now. Richard stated he has

44 concerns. We were all told that tobacco and power lines won't bother you either. We
45 need to study this, with a legitimate study.

46 Laurie addressed the Board by stating that she has done a lot of research on this and
47 submitted to the Board a lengthy study that was completed in 2020 for the state of
48 New Hampshire. The study addresses many health concerns, and she feels we need to
49 investigate this further before we bring 5G into town. Board asked Diane to submit a
50 request to the Selectmen, asking them if there is funding available to do such a study.
51 Right now, we will have to table the issue.

52
53 Town Manager, Derek Brindisi arrived at 9:17 a.m.
54

55 Derek came tonight to discuss the possibility of sharing the Animal Control services
56 with the town of Hopedale. Derek stated he was approached by the Chair of the
57 Hopedale BOH, who is looking to fill their ACO position. Derek feels this is really up to
58 ACO, Mike Moran, whether or not he wants to share his time with Hopedale.
59

60 9:26 a.m. Mike Moran arrived. Mike stated he has had previous conversations with
61 Hopedale regarding the position. They will need a lot of hours from the position in the
62 beginning, in order to play catch up with all the issues that have been neglected. Mike
63 is worried that Upton will suffer if he takes on Hopedale as well. Board discussed the
64 fact that if the position is shared, benefits must be offered as it will become over 20
65 hours per week. Benefits will cost the town more than we are paying for the position
66 now. There would be no advantage to share the service. Al stated Mike could work
67 part time for Hopedale on his own if he wishes, but it would not be a shared service.
68 Derek suggested Mike tells Hopedale the salary he wants. Let them know that it is not
69 in Upton's best interest to do an IMA for the position, but he could work directly with
70 them if he is interested.
71

72 Derek also stated he spoke with Hopedale about coordinating a joint contract for trash
73 and recycling. It is questionable if this is something that would be a cost saver for us
74 or not. Derek stated he is reaching out to other town managers to see if there may be
75 a benefit in doing a joint contract. He will let us know when he hears back if it's worth
76 pursuing
77

78 Diane stated we also need to appoint an assistant for the ACO to cover the position
79 when Mike is away. Mike stated currently, his wife Wendy and Brian Schultz cover for
80 him while he is away. Diane stated that we need to officially appoint them.
81

82 9:55 a.m. Mike and Derek left.
83

84 Diane was asked to contact the Selectmen and ask them if they will support and fund

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85 a request from the BOH to do a study on 5G.

86

87 Laurie asked the Board to follow up on her study that was submitted to the Board.
88 Radio waves were classified as a carcinogen in 2011. Studies show evidence of cancer
89 from 5G. She is not against 5G, she just wants to see it wired, not wireless. There
90 is a real danger to wireless. The FCC hasn't upgraded their radiation since 1996.
91 Europe has already banned 5G Board agreed they would reach out to the Selectmen.

92

93 **Motion four** – Richard made a motion to adjourn, and Al seconded the motion. Ted
94 made the motion unanimous.

95 10:07 a.m., meeting was adjourned.

96

97 Respectfully Submitted,

98

99

100 Diane Tiernan
101 Asst. Public Health Supervisor