



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545

DATE: March 27, 2020 – **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**
TO: Board of Health
FROM: Kerry Stockwell, Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT: Board of Health Meeting Minutes

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Vigeant, Jennie Fishman, and Dr. George Abraham – Shrewsbury Board of Health
Phil Leger - Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA)
Jeff Howland - Town Engineer for the Town of Shrewsbury
Donald Musial, Fred Roche, and Chris Sturgis – Wheelabrator Technologies
John Covey – Information Technology (IT)
Mark Serra – Shrewsbury Media Connection (SMC)

Confirming Member Access: As a preliminary matter, this is Stephen Vigeant, Chair of the Shrewsbury Board of Health. Please permit me to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda are present and can hear me.

- Members, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.
George Abraham - Affirmative
Jennie Fishman - Affirmative
- Staff, when I call your name, please respond in the affirmative.
Kerry Stockwell - Affirmative
- Anticipated Speakers on the Agenda, please respond in the affirmative.
Jeff Howland – Affirmative
Don Musial – Affirmative
Phil Leger - Affirmative

Introduction to Remote Meeting: Good morning. This Open Meeting of the Shrewsbury Board of Health is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the “COVID-19 Virus.”

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will not feature public comment.

For this meeting, the Shrewsbury Board of Health is convening by telephone conference as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join.

Meeting Business Ground Rules: We are now turning to the first item on the agenda. Before we do so, permit me to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes:

- The Chair will introduce each Board Member or Staff Member who has the lead role for this particulate item or guest/speaker associated with this item on the agenda. After they conclude their remarks, the Chair will go down the line of Members first and then to staff members, inviting each by name to provide any comment or questions. I will then call upon the members to offer a motion and then for a second. Please hold until your name is called. Further,
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking.
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes.

For others in attendance that are expected to present:

- Please hold until your name is called to present.
 - Please remember to mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking.
 - Please remember to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate minutes.
 - After your presentation, members of the Board will be given the opportunity to ask questions.
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- Finally, each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

AGENDA

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Stephen Vigeant.

2. Review and approval of Minutes from the February 28, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

Dr. Abraham asked the Chairman if he could speak to Agenda item number four (4) regarding a factual correction: JAMA Pediatrics study on fluoride's link to reduced IQ in children was funded by the U.S. Government – requested by Bryan Moss, 16 Ruthen Circle, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. The Chairman allowed comment. Dr. Abraham had previously refuted that this study was not funded by the U.S. Government at the February 28, 2020 Board of Health meeting. He would like to correct himself and said that this study was partially funded by the U.S. Government. Correction was formerly acknowledged.

On a motion made by Dr. Abraham, seconded by Jennie Fishman, and on a roll call vote; Jennie Fishman, aye, Dr. Abraham, aye, and Steve Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the Minutes from the February 28, 2020 Board of Health meeting. 3 – 0.

Dr. Abraham asked the Chairman if he could also speak to Agenda item #4 at this time.

3. Review and Act on request for approval of the construction plans for the Section VII baseliner at the Shrewsbury Landfill, which is the next increment of baseliner construction of the Phase V development – requested by Donald W. Musial, P.E., VP – Ash Monofills.

Don Musial thanked everyone for having him on the agenda. He has been in touch with both the Town Manager and Jeff Howland as Wheelabrator is considered an essential service. Over the last month, protocols have been put in place for employees and visitors entering their facility with regards to COVID-19. There have been no issues with obtaining Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for employees; however, they are on a waiting list for additional masks and gloves.

Mr. Musial explained that his request is for the approval of the construction plans for the Section VII baseliner located at the Shrewsbury Landfill. This is the next increment of baseliner construction of the Phase V development. Wheelabrator is required to obtain the Board of Health's approval per the Site

Assignment Modification that was issued on August 11, 2005 and per the Waste Disposal and Landfill Operations Agreement between Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. and the Town of Shrewsbury that was dated December 17, 2007. These plans were previously discussed at the May 2019 Board of Health meeting. The plans reflected a baseliner footprint increase (approximately 1.5 acres over a previously approved 7.8 acre footprint). The revision will extend the estimated permitted site life for the next ten (10) years. This would allow Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. to continue the deposit of ash at the Shrewsbury Landfill as well as generate an additional one million (\$1,000,000.00) worth of revenue to the Town of Shrewsbury.

At this time, Steve Vigeant opened up the meeting for questions and answers from the Board. Dr. Abraham asked to confirm that there wasn't a concern of contaminating the water supply. Don Musial said that was correct. The cells are double lined to ensure that the primary layer is functioning as designed and ground water is tested twice per year. There are no issues with ground water on-site. Most of the soils that lie underneath are clay.

Jennie Fishman did not have any questions or concerns.

Steve Vigeant assumed that there is some type of ground water monitoring as part of the process. Don Musial said there is and that monitoring is conducted on a semi-annual basis. During construction, there are third party engineers that oversee the work being performed and there is quality assurance testing. Before waste materials go into the newly lined area, it is flooded with clean water and its second base liner is monitored to ensure nothing is coming through. The clean water is then removed and then the waste material will be placed into the new cell.

Question: What is the timeframe for approval from the Department of Protection (DEP)?

Answer: Hoping to start construction within the next two (2) months. Would like the construction to commence in May but all that's going on, most likely starting in June 2020. There are some components of construction that DEP could approve to start earlier. Wheelabrator will seek approval for the construction of some of the components while the weather is good.

On a motion made by Dr. Abraham, seconded by Jennie Fishman, and on a roll call vote; Jennie Fishman, aye, Dr. Abraham, aye, and Steve Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the construction plans for the Section VII baseliner at the Shrewsbury Landfill, which is the next increment of baseliner construction of the Phase V development. 3 – 0.

4. Review and discuss a factual error request for the Town of Shrewsbury to notify pregnant women about the latest study on fluoride's link to reduced IQ in children – requested by Bryan Moss, 16 Ruthen Circle, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

Dr. Abraham the factual error this under Agenda item number two (2).

5. Review and Act on the Report from the CMRHA.

Phil Leger provided the following updates:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – It's all hands on deck. The routine inspections have been suspended for the time being. The Alliance continues to follow up on complaints via email and telephone as much as possible.

Kerry Stockwell will tell you that we are receiving many telephone calls on what businesses are essential vs. non-essential. She has been able to address most of those inquiries and has channeled others to apply directly through the State in an effort to be deemed essential. The call volume is keeping her very busy.

COVID-19 Funding – Funding has been made available to the City of Worcester to assist with the crisis and will be dispersed thru the Alliance towns. Getting money to the towns is a priority.

Personnel – Ivan Kwagala's last day is today. He voluntarily resigned. There is no immediate replacement. Staff is being rotated between working remotely and physically being present in the office. Phil Leger is trying to work remotely as much as possible as he falls into the high risk group. Kerry Stockwell is working one week in Town Hall and the next week in a remote capacity.

Permitting – Kerry Stockwell is keeping up with routine permitting. Pool season is also approaching. Kerry Stockwell is gathering renewal paperwork. Pool openings will be predicated on where things stand with COVID-19.

Board of Health Meetings – Phil Leger has been attending many Board of Health meetings via remote participation.

Steve Vigeant thanked Phil Leger for the update and opened up the meeting for any questions or concerns that the Board might have.

Dr. Abraham did not have any questions but wanted to relay the Board of Health's sincere appreciation to all the healthcare professionals who put their well-being on the line during this crisis. Everyone in the community has stepped up to the plate. For the record, the Board of Health wants to recognize how wonderful our citizens have been! Jennie Fishman echoed Dr. Abraham's sentiments. Steve Vigeant also agreed and gave special recognition to Dr. Abraham for his sacrifice and service. Dr. Abraham stated that it is a privilege to serve the Commonwealth.

Steve Vigeant asked Phil Leger what the Hazmat incident was listed on the environmental health inspection report. The incident was chemical related and Julie VanArsdalen was consulted on behalf of the Health Department.

Steve Vigeant thanked Kerry Stockwell, Administrative Assistant for her hard work and the handling of many unusual calls and requests. It is overwhelming. He appreciates her staying on top of things and passing along information to the Board of Health from the Alliance. He also thanked the Alliance (i.e. Karyn Clark, Phil Leger, Julie VanArsdalen and all involved) for the work they are facilitating in the extraordinary time we are in. He acknowledged Dr. Hirsh for his daily briefings from the City of Worcester and said that he is doing an amazing job.

There were no further comments at this time.

6. **Review meeting schedule.** The next Board of Health meeting will be held on May 1, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in the New Selectmen's Meeting Room (unless due to COVID-19) otherwise the meeting will take place via Remote Participation. Dr. Abraham tentatively accepted the meeting invite.
7. **Adjourn.** Dr. Abraham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 a.m. On a motion made by Dr. Abraham, seconded by Jennie Fishman, and on a roll call vote; Jennie Fishman, aye, Dr. Abraham, aye, and Steve Vigeant, aye, the Board of Health voted unanimously to adjourn. 3 – 0.

Referenced Material:

- Board of Health Meeting Minutes – dated February 28, 2020
- Letter from Donald W. Musial, P.E., VP – Ash Monofills – dated February 21, 2020
- Email from Bryan Moss, 16 Ruthen Circle, Shrewsbury – dated March 2, 2020
- CMRPHA Updates – March 2020
- Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20 – dated March 12, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry M. Stockwell
Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health