

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
REMOTE ONLY
MINUTES
Wednesday February 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj, Kim Netter

Staff: Abbey Myers, Director of Health, Lauren Olson, Chief Environmental Officer, Maureen Foley, Clerk Officer, Tyler Cote, Community Engagement Specialist, Reilly Ellis, Regional Tobacco Coordinator

In attendance: Miguel Hurtado, Joe Connors, Marciel (216030) (translator)

CALL TO ORDER: Dominic Amirtharaj called the meeting to order 7:00 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for January 15th, 2025 & February 12th, 2025
(Amirtharaj, Netter) (2,0)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comments

Vote to appoint new Regional Tobacco Inspector- Reilly Ellis

Ms. Ellis represents 7 municipalities and this is a grant position. She ensures compliance and education of tobacco products.

Ms. Netter made a motion to appoint Ms. Ellis as the Regional Tobacco Coordinator for City of Watertown.

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (2,0)

Roll Call

Vote on Dangerous Dog Determination and if deemed dangerous, place restrictions

Ms. Netter stated she is prepared to declare Penny as Dangerous.

Ms. Myers stated the ACO spoke to the owner of Penny and she is prepared to adopt whatever rules the BOH requires.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to deem Penny as Dangerous.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (2,0)

Roll Call

Ms. Netter made a motion to adopt restrictions 1, 2, 3, and 4.

(Netter, Amirtharaj) (2,0)

Roll Call

Request for Hearing- 25 Beechwood Rd.

Ms. Myers stated the rules of the hearing. Ms. Olsen reviewed the housing violations.

1. Deck in disrepair
2. Handrails need repairs
3. Bottom step has a hole.
4. Front door does not operate properly

Ms. Olsen sent a letter to the owner by constable.

Joe Connors, attorney for homeowner, Jeanette Whooley read her affidavit. There is no lease with Migual Hurtado, no oral tenancy. Mr. Hurtado does not pay rent or utilities and is illegally occupying the property. A contractor went to the property to make the appropriate repairs but was not allowed access on 1/27/25.

Ms. Netter asked Mr. Connors what is the pertinence to the BOH. What are you asking of the board. Mr. Connors replied that the owner wants extended time to make repairs and the tenant to allow the work to be done.

Mr. Hurtado stated he has been a tenant since 2017 with a contract. He disagrees with what is happening here. He stated two contractors came to the property without a 48-hour notice. The contractors were not allowed into the unit.

Ms. Myers made a suggestion to the BOH to enforce the initial order to correct with 48 hour notice to the tenants and Health Department whether exploratory or remediation purposes.

Dr. Amirtharaj stated to make the home safe with a 48 hour notice.

Ms. Netter stated the same.

Dr. Amirtharaj made a motion to make repairs and to abide by the initial order with a 48-hour notice to the tenant and Health Department.

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (2,0)

Roll Call

The hearing is closed at 7:50 PM

Department Update

1. Health is experiencing a slower month
2. State approved free flu vaccines to be sent to Watertown
3. Sharps collection Event on March 8, 2025 at City Hall
4. An annual rabies clinic on March 22, 2025 in Belmont.
5. Avian flu is on the rise. The ACO and Chief Environmental Officer are removing dead birds with PPE. They have done an amazing job to mitigate bird flu transmission. We ask the residents to call the health department if they find dead birds on their property. Vets will not take sick or dead birds at this point.
6. Health has not been informed if there are domestic hens with bird flu.
7. The 3rd BOH member will be approved by City Council shortly.

Next Meeting

March 19, 2025

Adjourn:

Adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM

(Amirtharaj, Netter) (2,0)

Roll Call