



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

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Committee on Human Services Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Members Present: Councilor Tony Palomba, Chair; Councilor Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and Councilor John Gannon, Secretary

The Committee on Human Services held a public meeting on January 17, 2024, at 7:00pm to discuss the appointment of Kim Netter to the Board of Health for a term expiring on February 1, 2027.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Palomba called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and introduced the other committee members present: Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and John Gannon, Secretary. Also present was Kim Netter.

Chair Palomba asked Ms. Netter to discuss her background relative to appointment to the Board of Health. She stated that she has forty years in the healthcare industry focusing on strategic planning, promotion and management, 21 years of which were in the public health areas of mental health promotion, substance abuse and violence prevention, and diversity, equity and inclusivity. Prior to earning a master's degree in public health, she spent 19 years in the pharmaceutical/ medical device industry. She brings significant skills and experience in analyzing community-level data needs and creating strategic plans for addressing unmet needs. Through federal, state and foundation grants, she developed deep roots in equity and inclusivity issues. She stated that she has retired and wants to be an active part in her community's public health needs. She has observed Board of Health meetings and stated that she would like all public health services to be as broadly available to the general public as possible. She also wants to see a better working relationship between the Board of Health and the Watertown Public Schools on public health issues, such as the Covid pandemic.

Action Item 1: Councilor Bays made a motion that the full Council vote to approve Kim Netter for appointment as a member of the Board of Health for a term expiring on February 1, 2027. Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Councilor Gannon made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Bays. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The meeting concluded at 7:35pm.

Minutes prepared by John Gannon

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Anthony Palomba,
Chair

Caroline Bays,
Vice Chair

John G. Gannon,
Secretary