



Watertown City Council Committee on Human Services Thursday, February 6, 2025

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 February 6, 2025, at 5:30pm to discuss the appointment of Jessica Malenfant, MPH, CSPO, as a member of the Board of Health to a term expiring February 7, 2028.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Palomba called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and introduced the other committee members present: Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and John Gannon, Secretary. Also present was Jessica Malenfant.

Chair Palomba started the meeting by asking Ms. Malenfant why she wanted to be a part of the Board of Health. She replied that she enjoys living in Watertown and wants to get more involved in the community. Her career has been focused on furthering public health initiatives. She has a Masters Degree in Public Health from Boston University, with a focus on epidemiology, and a Master's Degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Applied Health Sciences Informatics. She is an epidemiologist with an emphasis on interpreting and analyzing electronic health data and technology, for use in the clinical and public health fields. She has, for example, worked on infectious disease epidemiology and surveillance. She stated that her prior experience working with the Massachusetts Department of Health and providing technical assistance to the boards of health of multiple Massachusetts municipalities would be directly relevant to her service on the Watertown Board of Health.

Action Item: Councilor Bays made a motion that the full Council vote to approve Jessica Malenfant as a member of the Board of Health to a term expiring February 7, 2028. Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

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

The meeting concluded at 5:50pm.

Minutes prepared by John Gannon