



**Committee on Human Services Meeting  
Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM  
Remote Meeting**

The Committee on Human Services convened on Thursday February 26th at 5:00 pm. This was a remote meeting and the public could join via the zoom link – [https://watertownma.portal.civicclerk.com/?category\\_1d=80](https://watertownma.portal.civicclerk.com/?category_1d=80).

Present were Anthony Palomba, Chair, Caroline Bays, Vice Chair, and Emily Izzo, Secretary.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an interview Dominic Amirtharaj, MD for reappointment to the Board of Health to a term expiring February 5, 2029. Dominic Amirtharaj, MD.

Dr. Amirtharaj is serving on his second term, and he is currently Chair of the Board of Health. He has learned from previous chairs, and learned how to handle difficult situations especially the dangerous dog hearings. He has also learned how local government works, and has enjoyed working collaboratively with the Health Department. He has also enjoyed working on the massage parlor regulations. Dr. Amirtharaj feels his work as a physician and his science background has been helpful especially when it comes to Bio Lab safety. The Board of Health is the step after the Bio Safety Committee for final permit approval, sees the role of the Board of Health as a public advocate for safety specifically. Dr. Amirtharaj feels as though the next big challenge for the Board is taking up the tobacco free generation. Some communities in Massachusetts have adopted regulations which prevent selling to anyone who is not currently old enough to purchase tobacco products. He feels as though tobacco and cigarettes are the most preventative causes of many diseases. This issue has been paused since there is pending state action and further consideration with the Department of Health. He would like to continue taking preventative measures for Watertown including for issues like skin cancer.

⇒ Action Item:

Councilor Bays made a motion to reappoint Dominic Amirtharaj, MD to the Board of Health with a term expiring February 5, 2029.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Izzo and was passed 3-0.

Councilor Bays made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Izzo and was passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Anthony Palomba,  
Chair

Caroline Bays,  
Vice Chair

Emily Izzo,  
Secretary