

# **BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

## **MINUTES**

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on  
Wednesday October 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Barbara Beck, Richard Arnold and Dr. Dominic Amirtharaj

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health, Maureen Foley, Head Clerk, Shuang Shen, Public Health Nurse, Rotem Oloni, Regional Tobacco Control Coordinator

WBSC: Brad Parsons, Chairperson, Deb McEwan, Tim Maguire

In attendance: Jacky Van Leeuwen, Sheila Krishnan, Wesley Wong, Emre Uzgunur, Arun Sannuti, Tyler Kemp Benedict, Eric Kemp Benedict, Joseph Piantedosi, Corey Martin, Paul Taylor, Krisha Panchalingam, Lisa Capoccia, Jack Jezard

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. Beck called the meeting to order 7:26 pm, Roll Call

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### **Minutes**

Minutes were approved for July 20, 2022 meeting,  
Motions granted (Amirtharaj, Beck) 2-0.  
All in favor.  
Roll Call

### **Public Comment**

Jacky Van Leeuwen is alarmed by the attrition rate in the Health Department. The Board of Health is not addressing these issues for the City and its residents. She stated one employee only stayed in the position months.

### **Standardization of permit Suspensions within Regional Tobacco Collaborative**

Rotem Aloni, Regional Tobacco Control Coordinator spoke about the state fines have increased when sellers sell to underage customers. The BOH must determine the suspension in Watertown for a 1<sup>st</sup> time violation. The state has determined 2<sup>nd</sup> violation is 7 days suspension of sales and 3<sup>rd</sup> violation is 30 days suspension of sales. Ms. Aloni stated the surrounding communities average is a 3 days suspension of sales but Watertown can institute any number from 1 day to 7 days. BOH decided to table this discussion until the November meeting.

### **WBSC Permitting Recommendations**

Arcaea LLC. – 155 Arlington Street

Wesley Wong gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr. Beck questioned the cells used will be primary and how long is human tissue viable.

**AutoIVF Inc. – 200 Dexter Avenue Suite 120**

Emre Ozkumur gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

**Abata Therapeutics – 100 Forge Road Suite 200**

Krishna Panchalingam gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Mr. Arnold asked if the waste was being handled appropriately.

Motion granted to approve all three applications

(Beck, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Roll Call

**WBSC Presentation to Board of Health**

Brad Parsons, Chairperson of WBSC gave a Power Point presentation of the history with first application in November of 2020, the present and the future of the committee's goals and work related to BioTech and Life Science for the City of Watertown. Mr. Parsons stated the hard work by Dr. McManus to create the regulations and she worked diligently as the Chairperson for this committee and the City. Mr. Parsons concluded with "Watertown wants cutting edge science but safe science."

**Request to be heard on Pool Safety Enforcement: Perkins School: Paul Taylor.**

Paul Taylor is a parent of a Perkins School student who is severely disabled. The child's joy is to swim with his fellow students. Mr. Taylor appeared in front of the BOH to get approval for the school to allow this child to swim more often and with his peers and staff.

**COVID Related Matters**

Shuang Shen, Public Health nurse gave a Power Point presentation related to COVID cases. She spoke about the Flu clinics that have already taken place and the ones planned for the next couple of weeks. Health Department received a shipment of 9000 test kits to be distributed to various locations in City Hall, Library and Senior Center. Ms. Shen stated she had a blood pressure clinic and gave out test kits at Faire on the Square.

**Staffing and Department Updates**

There are 3 vacancies in the department and presently we are interviewing for an Animal Control Officer. Lauren Olson, Health Officer is training with a Newton Food Safety Inspector for 25 inspections which is part of the FDA regulations.

Mr. Ramdin hired a part-time nurse to assist in clinics and help Ms. Shen.

Dr. Beck addressed Ms. Shen about her experience and employment with the Health Department.

Ms. Shen stated she enjoys working in Watertown.

**Items that could not be anticipated before the meeting**

No comments

**Adjourn:**

Adjourned the meeting at 9:25 PM

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