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Inspection Services  
41 Elm Street

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE**  
**April 20, 2023 BOH Meeting 6:00pm**  
**Veteran's Room**

Agenda #1- Open Meeting- 6:05pm

Agenda #2- Roll Call

Nicole Duffey  
Anthony Postale- excused  
Daniel Grabowski  
Paige Szugda  
Jasmine Quinones

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2023 MAY 11 PM 7:33

Agenda #3- Accept Meeting Minutes

- a. February 16, 2023- Motion to table the February 16, 2023 minutes made by Chair Duffey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Quinones.
- b. March 23, 2023 – Motion is to accept March 23, 2023 minutes made by Chair Duffey; 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Grabowski.

Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes  
P. Szugda-yes  
D. Grabowski-yes  
A. Postale-excused  
N. Duffey- yes

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale). February 16, 2023 BOH meeting minutes are tabled.

Agenda #4-Citizens Forum- None

Agenda #5- COVID Update

a. Discuss current status and act on anything thereto- Director Wasiuk offers COVID reports submitted by the Regional Epidemiologists, Brianna Burnham (see attached) for Board's review. Director Wasiuk also states his commendation for Brianna Burnham proficient work with COVID and FLU data and reporting. According to the draft, Director Wasiuk states rates of infection continue to be reduced and a trend of decline has been evident for several months. Member Grabowski states that the 50-69 year old age bracket continues to identify signs of concern and higher infection rates than other age brackets. Member Quinones identifies many environmental factors influencing the fluctuating FLU numbers, such as temperature and seasonal weather changes. According to the Epidemiologist, Director Wasiuk relays there were no flu cases in Southbridge as of the report from March and April 2023.

Agenda #6-Old Business

a. Blight Update – Director Wasiuk informs the Board the list of blighted properties in which each Member has received from him, continues to be worked on by both Health Department and Building Department staff. Chair Duffey indicates that she has visited most of the locations in order to review the conditions. Director Wasiuk states that his intentions are to obtain updated records and information pertaining to all blighted properties from Treasurer Department and Building Department. He indicated the most important blighted property to address is 20 Brick Row. Chair Duffey asked about obtaining further information regarding 36 Thomas Street. Director Wasiuk clarified that 36 Thomas Street will need additional input from the Building Inspector in relation to the structural integrity and ability to rehabilitate the dwelling. Member Szugda and Chair Duffey suggest constructing a list which includes status of ownership, foreclosure, condemnation, repair, and risk levels. Chair Duffey would like to know the exact properties owned by the Town of

Southbridge and what properties are being worked on to rehab. Director Wasiuk mentions there is a budget line within the Health Department that has a total of \$180,000 and is intended to pay for the demolition of blighted properties and reiterated the need to address 20 Brick Row because of the increased risk to public safety.

b. On-going discussion on community Mental Health needs- Chair Duffey suggests that BOH Members and Health Department Staff keep current with community needs and challenges regarding mental health. Member Quinones states that she is looking for volunteers for the Family Fun Day event being held on June 24, 2023.

#### Agenda #7 New Business

a. Beautify Southbridge- Director Wasiuk updated BOH Members that advertising and public outreach continues through social media, signage, television, and flyers for the upcoming event.

Agenda #8- Discuss whether to amend current Regulations on Tobacco Use Including Restricting Youth Access on the prohibition of smoking bars- Chair Duffey motions to table agenda #8.

Roll Call

J. Quinones-yes

P. Szugda-yes

N. Duffey-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

A. Postale-excused

Motion to table agenda #8 passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Agenda #9- Discuss the process of issuing permits to determine if this is to be amended- Motion to table Agenda #9 made by Chair Duffey

Roll Call

D. Grabowski-yes

P. Szugda-yes

N. Duffey-yes

J. Quinones-yes

A. Postale – excused

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Member Grabowski expressed his concerns and frustrations with Member Postale not attending BOH Meetings, with Agenda #8 and Agenda #9 being motioned to be tabled, and with proceeding with possible changes to tobacco regulations. He also is dissatisfied with the adverse effects these new proposals may have on current tobacco permit holders. Member Szugda states her confusion whether these future tobacco discussions are targeting smoking bars or youth going into smoking bars...and what is the intent? Chair Duffey explains there is confusion with the language used in the provisions of the smoking regulations. Member Quinones added that education and outreach still need to be a large part of the compliance component with tobacco regulations.

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

~~Agenda #10- Discuss input for usage of Opioid Funds- Chair Duffey explains in prior meetings the Board discussed a first contact individual, similar to a social worker for the use of Opioid Funds. Director Wasiuk clarified that the previous Town Manager decided to build a group within Town Hall to obtain ideas of proper appropriation of the opioid funds. Approximately \$138,000 will be allocated to the town from state litigation efforts. The usage of such~~

funds will be decided upon by the Town Council through a newly developed group by the Interim Town Manager. Member Quinones added her sincere interest in being part of this group's decision process. Member Grabowski would like to see future education and connection of affected people with appropriate agencies to assist with opioid addiction. Chair Duffey requests Director Wasiuk to continue efforts with collection of information on Opioid Funds.

Agenda #11- Discuss ARPA funds project ie: homeless shelter- Director Wasiuk indicates approval of ARPA fund proposals has been reached. The Inspections Department (Health and Building) was awarded \$20000 for PPE and Field Equipment and \$4515.98 for an office printer/folding signs/yard signs.

Agenda #12- Health Director's Announcement- Director Wasiuk announces he has already addressed COVID/FLU, Opioid Funds, and ARPA at this meeting. No further announcements are needed.

Agenda #13- Chairman Announcement- None

Agenda #14- Board Members Announcements-

D. Grabowski- none.

P. Szugda- none

J. Quinones- none

Agenda #14- Schedule Next Meeting- May 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm

Agenda #16- Adjournment-

Motion to adjourn by P. Szugda; 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Grabowski:

Roll Call

N. Duffey-yes

J. Quinones-yes

P. Szugda-yes

D. Grabowski-yes

A. Postale- excused

Motion passes 4-1 excused (Postale).

Recording Clerk,

D. Wasiuk



