

**BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

**ATTENDEES: Robert O’Hanley, Chairman
Richard Lombard, Member
Deborah Ketchen, Health Agent
Lori Bentsen, Administrative Asst.**

Meeting Open: 5:00 PM

AGENDA:

The Board voted and unanimously approved meeting minutes of August 12, 2015. Richard Lombard made a motion to amend meeting minutes of December 9, 2015 in the first paragraph of Open Discussion to add “Board member Robert O’Hanley requested the list of duties of the Board of Health be submitted to the Finance Director.” The Board voted to approve amended minutes and it was a unanimous vote.

Proposed Groveland Police Department firing range. Robert O’Hanley said about a year and a half ago the police department mounded up some sand in Strawberry Field behind the highway department garage and they were shooting lead bullets then and they ended up having to truck all that sand with the bullets out of there. At this same time they were talking about building another firing range there. Robert O’Hanley said he spoke to Deputy Chief Gillen and told him he would have to come before the Board of Health with a proposed plan that shows you will be protecting the aquifer. Robert O’Hanley said he recently watched a Selectmen’s meeting and the police department was requesting the Selectmen’s approval for a new firing range. Robert O’Hanley said the bullets the police department want to use this time are frangible bullets made from compressed copper and tin and only break apart when they hit something as hard as themselves. Robert O’Hanley asked Richard Lombard to review the information that he researched on the computer. Robert O’Hanley said even though this page says Minnesota EPA, it has rules and regulations. O’Hanley also asked Lombard to look at Massachusetts Association of Health Boards which states one of the local health board duties is protection of the environment from damage and pollution. O’Hanley said a child one year old or younger can not handle excess copper and in adults it produces stomach cramps, nausea and has been linked to kidney disease and liver damage. Lombard said I know all this and I am not

interested in Minnesota regulations. Lombard said I am interested in MA DEP regulations for our drinking water and also MA Dept. of Public Health regulations. O'Hanley said this frangible copper, they are going to be shooting 100 rounds each, every time they shoot down there to practice and qualify and without a roof, base and walls, all that copper and tin will wash down into the water table that feeds our wells. O'Hanley said that we need to send a letter to the Selectmen and the Police saying that the only way we will allow a firing range there is that it has to be built so that nothing gets down into the groundwater. Lombard said he would first like to hear what the MA DEP has to say. Lombard said he does know that the DEP has standards for copper in the water. Lombard said that the police department may put a mechanism in place for collecting shells. Lombard said he believes the MA Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife must have standards for a firing range. O'Hanley said we'll have Lori send a letter to the DEP. Lombard disagreed and said this is what we have a health agent for and I would like the health agent to place a phone call to the DEP to get information for the Board. The Board directed the health agent to inquire if there are DEP regulations for a firing range on an aquifer. Lombard said he would like to say one another thing which is that you should have notified me about the Selectmen's meeting because you went to this Selectmen's meeting and represented the Board without telling me. O'Hanley said by law I cannot talk to you about it, we have to have a meeting. Lombard asked O'Hanley if he spoke at the Selectmen's meeting on behalf of the Board of Health. O'Hanley said he did not and he said right up front personal. Lombard said OK. Lombard said why don't you make a motion. O'Hanley made a motion that we tell the Selectmen to wait until we research to see what stipulations the police department have to abide by to protect the environment and people from heavy metals going into the water table. Lombard seconded and it was a unanimous vote. O'Hanley said to Deborah to research it to find out. O'Hanley said that we have been snubbed by the police department all along and what was on TV is miscellaneous downplay of what they are using and they didn't even know about what the extra copper can do to children and adults, it's pounds of it. Lombard said he believes the copper is low toxicity but he agreed it should be looked into. Lombard said it would have been good if you had brought this to the attention of the Board before you went to the meeting. O'Hanley said by law I can't talk to you on the phone. Lombard said you ask Lori to call me.

Next item on the agenda is purchase defibrillator and laptop with Coalition funds. Lombard said he really didn't want to deal with the Coalition again after what happened with the police radios. Deborah Ketchen said that she told O'Hanley that she could get a laptop computer and defibrillator with Coalition funds.

Ketchen said she could not get a desktop computer, only a laptop. Lombard said he thought we were working with the Finance Director to get town funds for two new computers and software for the BOH office. Lombard said the town should purchase the defibrillator if needed for the town hall because he feels there could be liability issues if it is needed to be used and it hasn't been maintained, dead battery, etc. O'Hanley said we should ask the Finance Director if the town's insurance would cover having a defibrillator in the Board of Health office. Lombard disagreed and said if a defibrillator is purchased it should not be placed in the BOH office, it should be in the hallway where it would be accessible. O'Hanley and Lombard decided not to purchase a defibrillator and laptop with Coalition funds.

Lombard asked the health agent the status on the yogurt machines at Gerry's Variety. O'Hanley asked the health agent if they have been sending the monthly reports? Lombard asked the health agent "the question is do they have to do one test or both tests? Lombard said I expect you to know and tell me because that was presented to you back in December. Lombard asked the health agent did you contact the lab and did they clarify the situation for us. Lombard said to Ketchen do you have an answer. Ketchen said actually I went on the DEP website and there wasn't anything there from what I could see. Lombard said he went on the DEP website and they want us to do both tests and I don't want us to do two if one is enough. Lombard said I had just seen one test coming across when I checked these last year. Lombard said that is why I brought this up at the December meeting because it was a concern because we had had all these issues and there was the ice cream in Texas, Blue Bonnet, and it seems to be going on still. O'Hanley asked Ketchen if she had Decie's number. Lombard said this was directed to the health agent. Lombard said I have had it, this was directed to the health agent and we don't have an answer yet. Lombard asked O'Hanley so what do you want to do about this? O'Hanley said find out the answer. Lombard said I want to find out why the health agent didn't get the answer. Lombard said the Board asked her to get an answer back in December. O'Hanley asked Ketchen if she had reason why she didn't get the answer, did you forget it? Ketchen said she thought the coliform amount passed. Lombard said the lab reported all the samples as having passed, the Board requested the health agent to investigate if frozen yogurt needs to be analyzed for a total of aerobic bacteria as well as coliform. Lombard said this is the winter, too, not the summer when there are more things going on. O'Hanley said I'm not going to fire her, I feel we need her. Lombard said town election is May 2nd, I do not think I can stay on this Board any longer. O'Hanley asked Lombard what is his recommendation on this situation. Lombard said we have had various issues with the health agent before and you

keep protecting her. Lombard said to O'Hanley this is why I am so upset, this bacteria in the yogurt machines is an important issue. O'Hanley asked Lombard after a week or two, why didn't you remind her. Lombard said remind her? Lombard said I looked at the December minutes yesterday and I thought Oh My God, I wonder where this sits. O'Hanley said I don't think it is a monumental thing and that you have to go off the deep end. Lombard said to O'Hanley that I find all of this unacceptable and I will be submitting my letter of resignation effective May 2nd.

Meeting adjourned 5:50 PM

Next scheduled Board of Health Meeting to be announced.