

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH**

May 21, 2009

5:00pm

City Hall Annex Conference Room

Present: Paulette Renualt-Caragianes (Health Director)
Dr. Brian Green (Chair)
Babette Mello, Board Member
Paula Machado, Board Member
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)

Staff Members in Attendance: None

Guests: Tawny Wilson

A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Machado to call the meeting to order at 5:09pm.

Previous Minutes: On a motion made by Ms. Mello and seconded by Ms. Marchado; *“The April 16, 2009 Minutes were approved as circulated.”*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Previous Director’s Report: On a motion made by Ms.Mello and seconded by Paula Machado; *“The April’s Department Updates were approved as circulated.”*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) Updates: The city had two confirmed cases, both are well recovered, did not need hospitalization, and both self-isolated themselves when they felt ill.

In the early days the State’s Department of Public Health did the investigations. Today if there is a confirmed case; the local boards of health are now responsible for investigations. Regular conference calls were initiated through the State’s Department of Public Health to keep all the local boards of health informed of any changing guidelines. As it stands now, the H1N1 virus is acting like a normal flu. Currently, the State is working on a vaccine for the H1NI. We could see this virus come back in the fall. Information pertaining to the H1N1 virus can be found on the city’s website.

Health Department Updates:

Staffing Updates: Jaime Corliss was hired as the Director of Shape-Up-Somerville; she started May 18, 2009. The Director of Tobacco Control will be advertised.

Cory Mashburn will officially be the Scap Director effective July 1, 2009 and Sonja Darai will officially be the Commissions Director effective July 1, 2009. School Nursing is still an on-going challenge trying to find qualified school nurses.

Grants Budget Updates: The Tobacco, Essential School Health and SUS grants have all been hit by budget cuts ranging from 10 – 13%. We are still awaiting word from The Scap grants on their fate.

City Budget: Two scenarios of the budget were done both level-funded at 10% and 15%. Ms Renault-Caragianes doesn't expect any layoffs within her department. A number of positions will remain on the fiscal 2010 budget but will not be filled. The Mayor is asking that non-union staff take furloughs and there will be a wage freeze.

Other: The Health Director gave information out on a program that the City of Lowell did which was a success. The program lets residents dispose their unused and unwanted medications during their household hazardous waste days. Since the City of Somerville also has hazardous waste days, Paulette Renault-Caragianes asked the board members if they would consider such a project for Somerville Residents. They all agreed it was a great idea. Ms. Renault-Caragianes will research this with appropriate city officials to see if the city would be willing to propose such a program for its residents.

Needle Kiosk Updates: Brian Green informed the board that the security office at his office said the needle kiosk is still being used. If it can't stay at 26 Central Street, the city will need to find a new home for the needle kiosk. The Health Director will follow up with the Public Health Nurse, Maureen Monagle on the upkeep and cost of the needle kiosk.

Private Wells Regulations Public Hearing: The board conducted a public hearing on the proposed private wells regulations. Dr. Green made a motion to have a vote on the private well regulations. Ms. Machado seconded it. The vote was unanimous. – 3 in favor.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Announcements: The 5th Annual Scap Coalition Meeting will be May 28, 2009 at the Somerville High School's Highlander Café from 6:30-8:00pm.

The next meeting will be held in the City Hall Annex Conference Room, 50 Evergreen Avenue at 5:00pm. on June 18, 2009

A motion was made by Dr. Green and seconded by Ms. Machado to adjourn the meeting at 5:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle (Recording Secretary)
May 27, 2009