

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

Members Present: Lindle Willnow, Susan Wilfahrt, Karen Zagorski, Health Agent Leslie Whelan and Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens.

Meeting Opened: 7:33 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

Partners Home Care Contract

Last year's Partners Home Care contract said they would conduct the annual flu clinic and Hamilton would pay \$48.41 per hour for clinic services. This year Partners' contract said they would charge \$15.78 per vaccine for the uninsured and the Town would pay \$51.36 per hour for clinic services.

Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens has sent an email to former BOH assistant Gail Messelaar asking if Partners charged per vaccine last year. According to Health Agent Leslie Whelan, Partners only bills Medicare. Stevens did not have any proof that \$15.78 per vaccine was charged in the past.

Whelan said last year the breakdown of the bill identified the rate the town (Hamilton or Wenham) was charged for each uninsured person. But this didn't show up in the contract. A flu clinic is offered in the schools for the Town employees and school staff.

According to Whelan, the flu clinic to be held at the Community House is for people over 65 that are covered by Medicare. Whelan said the clinics are advertised for people 50 years old and over. She said Partners is not able to bill for these people because they are not primary care. The seasonal flu clinic cost Hamilton \$1,100 last year. Whelan said the clinic is shared with Wenham but the billing is divided by town.

The Board discussed how the cost for inoculations for the teachers might be paid according to the school district formula for the two towns.

Chairman Lindle Willnow said ideally for the seasonal flu clinic a list could be compiled that identifies where people getting shots live so the charges would reflect this.

Susan Wilfahrt asked why Partners is charging \$15 a shot if they are getting the flu vaccine serum free of charge from the Department of Public Health. Whelan said if Partners was buying the vaccine there would be an additional \$10 or \$12 fee. She said

the \$15 is an administrative fee for the shot to be given. This is what Medicare would reimburse.

There was discussion about whether or not Hamilton should be paying the \$51.36 an hour if the Town is paying Partners \$15 a shot. Wilfahrt said that should be tackled later on since it is flu season now.

Discussion on the fact that there would be a third flu clinic held for the school and Town staff. Stevens has put up posters around Town giving details about the seasonal flu clinics.

Willnow corrected the spelling of his name on this year's contract from Partners and then he signed it as Board of Health chairman.

Flu Clinic Update

Whelan has met twice with school officials and Wenham Board of Health chairman in regard to seasonal flu and swine (H1N1) vaccinations at the schools. The school officials don't want clinics held during the school day. They would provide access to the children and school building one afternoon and one weekend day for H1N1 vaccinations. This timing could be difficult and parental consent is needed.

Partners does not want to vaccinate children. Bobbi Cody could organize the H1N1 clinics. Nurses could be hired at an hourly rate to vaccinate. Cody could also help estimate how many doses would be required. A registration request has to be submitted by October 9. Registration would be done by age group.

Children not enrolled in the school system would go to their primary care physician's office for vaccination.

Wenham would be asked to help pay for the H1N1 clinics. According to Whelan, Medical Reserve Corps volunteer might be able to assist.

Discussion: Hamilton Water Quality Update

Willnow gave an update on Hamilton's water quality after two samples from Town Hall and the Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary tested positive for coliform. No additional positive coliform results have been reported. The Town's consumer confidence report indicated violations for THM levels for 2008. The Department of

Environmental Protection procedures were followed. The maximum contaminant level for THM is 80 and the water samples tested at 92.

In two to three years, stage one disinfection by-product rules will include checking every test location to determine a local running average. Changes have been made at the Town's water treatment plant that have reduced the amount of precursor chemicals that can form THMs. An initial distribution system evaluation will be done to test locations and determine if where samples are taken for bacteria and THMs should be changed.

Discussion & Approval - Nomination of Inspector of Animals

Willnow entertained a motion to nominate Dyan Katz as Inspector of Animals for the year. Wilfahrt so moved. Karen Zagorski seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Update on Disposable Needles in Health Office

The Town paid \$90 to dispose of used sharps needles at the Hazardous Waste Day held in Hamilton. Moving forward residents wanting to dispose of sharps can go to Peabody or Gloucester. The Town will no longer manage the disposal of used sharps.

Beaver Control

The public works department has \$3,000 budgeted for beaver control in Town but no beaver trapping is planned since DPW Director John Tomasz hasn't received any complaints to date.

Minutes Approval

Willnow moved to accept the August 18, 2009 minutes as amended to delete the last sentence in the third paragraph on the first page. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mosquitoes

Walter Montgomery from the Northeast Mosquito Control District of which the Town is a member said Eastern Equine Encephalitis has been identified in bird biting mosquitoes but not human biting mosquitoes. So spraying has not been recommended.

Also discussed was the potential need to work with Bruce Taylor, business manager for the Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Corporation in regard to pest control. An operator might become necessary as decaying, uninhabited dwellings are torn down in Asbury Grove. To date when this demolition has occurred, residents have noted a large number of rats in the area. It is suspected that the rodents are scavenging food from nearby dumpsters and living in the abandoned buildings. The Board of Health may need to consider developing a regulation in the future.

Another topic discussed was the need to replace again the waste water treatment system at the high school. The system has a flow of more than 10,000 gallons per day.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 9:00 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded the motion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board's next meeting is on Wednesday, October 28.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen
Town Clerk

Planning Board
Conservation