



**Town of Southborough  
Board of Health  
9 Cordaville Road, Lower Level  
Southborough, MA 01772-1662**

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Phone: (508) 481-3013

## **Minutes of the Southborough Board of Health**

### **Meeting Minutes**

February 15, 2022 – Board of Health Joint with Advisory Committee – Virtual – 6:30 PM

#### **Present:**

Board Members Chelsea Malinowski, Nancy Sacco, Dr. Safdar Medina; Public Health Director, Dr. Heather Alker; Public Health Nurse, Taylor West

#### **Opening:**

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 8:09 PM by Ms. Malinowski.

#### **Topic: FY23 budget**

Ms. Malinowski noted the changes to the BOH budget were as follows: fully funding the Public Health Nurse position at 40 hours/week, fully funding the Public Health Director at 30 hours/week and an SAP increase for the BOH Business Administrator. Mr. Healey and Mr. Stivers had no questions on the BOH budget. Mr. Dennington asked if there a need for this many hours in a post-pandemic world. He asked if regionalization would create greater efficiencies and he also asked about using ARPA funds for the BOH positions. Mr. Dennington acknowledged the Town was not spending enough on the BOH and budget increases will need to be made a permanent. Ms. Braccio also asked how regionalization would impact BOH hours and salaries. Ms. Malinowski stated the BOH had taken a position on the staffing issues. She stated the BOH decided to engage the Personnel Board process to add the Public Health Nurse position and will add to the Warrant as a full-time position. The BOH also decided to contract the Public Health Director position for a one-year period, with the idea the position will be added to the budget in FY24. Ms. Malinowski added the BOH recently met to request \$50,000 in ARPA funds from the ARPA Committee to make up the balance of funds needed for the Public Health Director's salary in FY23. The goal is to add two full-time employees over a two-year period. Mr. Healey stated he thinks the current staffing structure is a minimum for the BOH. Mr. Stivers agreed with Mr. Healey. Further, he stated the BOH has a solid base of capability locally and can leverage with regional activities. He is supportive of using ARPA funds for the remainder of the full-time position and noted it is a path to a permanent budget position. Dr. Medina stated that once we have the local needs identified, we can access regional resources and this is, in fact, the reason to keep both full-time positions. Ms. Sacco thanked the Board for their attention to the BOH issues and thanked Ms. Malinowski for her hard work over the last year. Ms. Braccio stated the Board is supportive of the work that has been done by the BOH and appreciates the consideration of phasing in of the full-time salaries. She stated the Board is supportive of the use of ARPA funds for FY23. Ms. Malinowski will submit the revised BOH budget reflecting the use of ARPA funds. Ms. Braccio will reach out to the ARPA Committee to inform them of the Board's support of the use of funds for the BOH.

#### **Topic: ARPA request for funds**

This discussion is detailed in the section above.

#### **Topic: Mask mandate in Town buildings**



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Ms. Malinowski reported there has been a mask mandate in public buildings since August of 2021. The town-wide mask mandate was lifted on February 8, 2022. Ms. West reported that today, February 15, 2022, the State Department of Public Health ("DPH") relaxed their advisory to say individuals who are fully vaccinated do not have to mask indoors. She stated DPH is still recommending people who are unvaccinated or immuno-compromised or live with people who are immuno-compromised continue to mask indoors, outside their homes. Mr. Healey moved that Southborough public buildings that fall under the purview of the Select Board adopt the mask advisory for vaccinated and unvaccinated residents consistent with the State Department of Public Health's advisory, issued this same day, effective February 17th, which effectively lifts the mask requirement mandate that has been in effect for several months. Mr. Stivers seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0-0) by roll call vote: Mr. Dennington, aye; Ms. Malinowski, aye; Mr. Healey, aye; Mr. Stivers, aye; Ms. Braccio, aye. Ms. Malinowski moved to adjourn the Board of Health meeting at 8:40PM. Ms. Sacco seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (3-0-0) by roll call vote: Ms. Sacco, aye; Dr. Medina, aye; Ms. Malinowski, aye. Ms. Braccio thanked the BOH for attending tonight's meeting and thanked them for the work they have done over the last two years and continue to do.

Respectively submitted Chelsea Malinowski.

**Documents:**

None