

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, January 18, 2022

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Joanne Miller, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Elizabeth Lyons, Esq., Dr. Tom Krueger (League of Women Voters)

Web-based video conferencing meeting of the Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm. The following roll call was taken: Ms. Joanne Miller, present; Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, present; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, present.

MOTION to move pursuant to G.L. c. 30A sec 21(a)(3) that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation regarding the Open Meeting Law complaints filed by Tammi Baer, Sharman Pollender, Emily DeWitt and Kevin McKernan the public discussion of which may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board. The Board will be returning to open session. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Ms. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of December 27th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of December 29th as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

A continued discussion from January 11th took place on the Peaker Plant scheduled to be built in Peabody. A letter written by Joe Kowalik, general manager of Marblehead Municipal Light Department, was read by Andrew aloud. The plant would allow other more polluting plants to be decommissioned and could run on liquid nitrogen and potentially green hydrogen. Marblehead Light Department owns 4% of the proposed plant. The commitment is for 30 years and would cost \$225K annually. The Peabody Board of Health has written a letter against the construction of the plant, and would like the Marblehead Board of Health to write a letter as well. Eileen Mathieu of 44 Longview Drive, representing Sustainable Marblehead, stated that the plant has been grandfathered in when it was proposed in 2015.

Dan Albert of 58 Leicester Road offered comments on the Peaker Plant.

MOTION to join the Peabody Board of Health in support of letter to the governor asking for review of the plant and its potential impact on community health and the environment. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

Transfer Station Update

Todd addressed the issue of transparency about the expenditures for the cap of the landfill. The expenditures were reviewed by town counsel and the inspector general and were found to be appropriate. A spreadsheet of the expenditures will soon be available on the town website marblehead.org. Delay with further work on the transfer station has been due to the pandemic. He further explained that the three warrants voted on at town meeting were all incorporated into one ballot issue. This was done with input from the Board of Selectman and the town administrator. The reasoning was that the landfill had to be capped per order from MA DEP and that all other work could follow.

Dana Weeder of Winter Street Architects gave a site plan screen presentation on Option B – scale house, staff support building, swap shed & pit structure repairs. He also presented a detailed plan for Option A.

Jerry Smith, OPM for the transfer station commented stating Option A would be a big ask and that Option B was acceptable. He stated that Marblehead has one of better transfer stations in the state. It offers many services to the residents. Green Street entrance would alleviate 80-90% of the traffic. Option A would take 10-12 months to complete with a cost of 6.5 million and Option B would take 9-10 months to complete with a cost of 1.6 million dollars.

MOTION to submit two articles to town meeting on the renovation / new transfer station as we received this evening by noon this Friday January 21st by the Board of Health. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker in favor.

Todd opened the meeting to public comment period. The following citizens offered comments:

Jack Attridge – 67 Beach Street
Dr. Tom Underwood – 48 Hawkes Street
Dan Albert – 58 Leicester Road
James Full – 21 Cheever Avenue
Lori – no address given
Laura Gallant – 25 Prince Street
Allen Waller – 159 Atlantic Avenue
Jeanne Lambkin – 19 Devereux Street
Erin(no last name given) – 40 Hawkes Street
Nicholas Adams – 15 Shetland Road
Emily DeWitt – 154 Atlantic Avenue

Helaine suggested that the Board hold a Transfer Station Community Forum. The Board agreed that this would allow the community to ask questions.

MOTION to invite the community to participate in a transfer station forum. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Mrs. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

The next meeting will take place on February 1st.

MOTION to close meeting. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk

List of documents used:

OML complaint responses- Tammi Baer, Sharman Pollender, Emily DeWitt, Kevin McKernan
Letter from Joe Kowalik
Letter to governor in support of Peabody Board of Health
Transfer Station – Option A, Option B, power point
Warrant Articles- Article 37, Article 38

