



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
P.O. Box 1327
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
508-693-3554 Ext. 127

William White
Chair

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Garrett Albiston
Health Agent

Alexa Arieta
Assistant Health Agent

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2023 – 10:00 AM

In accordance with Governor Healey's extension of the temporary provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this meeting was held virtually.

Members Present: William White, Thomas Zinno, James Butterick

Others Present: Garrett Albiston, Lorna Welch, Sherry Countryman, Becky Rivera

Chair White opened the meeting at 10:00AM.

DISCUSSION

- **Guidelines for distribution of ARPA septic grants and possible vote**

Mr. Zinno stated that after reading the materials pertaining to the grant, he clarified that the funds are not for failed septic systems, they are for upgrading a system to a 10 milligram per liter system. He also verified that we could use the money in any way that we want pertaining to a designated area, watersheds, distances from the pond, financial qualifications, etc. He has one question regarding this grant being available for replacing systems and or upgrading systems (adding the tank), and he will be clarifying that with the County. Mr. White asked Mr. Zinno if he wanted to wait to get those answers before he votes on the guidelines. Mr. Zinno would like to have a workshop to have further discussion to decide on the guidelines. Mr. Albiston stated that because the grant money needs to be distributed by next September, close to a year from now, we really need to get this going asap. Mr. White agreed. Mr. Butterick stated that this is a federal contract, and the County has regulations in place which means there is no negotiating. People will need a minimum of \$40,000 to get these systems in and that does not include the engineering costs. There was further discussion regarding how much money to distribute for each system installation. Mr. White stated that we should have been ready to vote on this today per our discussion at the last meeting. Mr. Albiston pointed out that we do not have regulations in place that require enhanced systems to be installed so we need a carrot to get people to do it. Mr. Zinno feels it is our responsibility to get the most systems installed so he would like to see \$35,000 allocate per system. Mr. Albiston thinks we should allocate at least \$40,000 to \$45,000 per system. Ms. Countryman urged the Board to get this done quickly as the funds will not be available forever. Ms. Rivera suggested putting something in the paper to get this out to lower income residents

and ask them to apply. She also asked that the Board put a regulation in place requiring enhanced systems within 500 feet of the ponds.

Mr. Butterick made a motion in terms of the ARPA grant distribution, to follow the County regulations for systems located in the area that the CWMP has designated to have enhanced systems and the amount allocated per system engineering and installation is to not exceed \$40,000. Mr. Zinno seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **July 6, 2023** - Mr. Butterick makes a motion to approve. Seconded by Mr. Zinno with one correction requested. Approved 3-0.

AGENT UPDATES - None

Mr. Butterick makes a motion to adjourn at 10:50 AM. Mr. Zinno seconds. Adjourned 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrator