

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk; David DiNicola, Jackie Duda, Health Agent (HA)

Duane Pease, Administrative Assistant

Hearing on Maitlan Dowsey Property opened at 6:30pm.

HA gave Board history of property owned by Maitlan Dowsey and her involvement with it. She had contact Mr. Dowsey when a port-a-potty was seen outside of his home, she was advised the water system had failed and this was a temporary situation. She advised him funding may be available through Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and gave him contact information. An appointment was made for August 29th to meet with him. On 8/25 she received a call from Police Chief, Ton Austin, regarding considerable trash and clutter. When she arrived on 8/29 she was met by a representative of Highland Valley Elder Services who had been called by Tom Austin. Mr. Dowsey's sister from New York was visiting him at that time also. Jackie was allowed into the house, when she entered she noticed clutter all around and his recliner was broken and he could not get out of it without assistance. There was no running water and the conditions were not sanitary. Because of Mr. Dowsey's physical condition a chair ambulance was called to take him to the hospital. Prior to the ambulance arriving, Jackie was given permission to look through the house, she found the kitchen very unsanitary and unsafe, the back door was barred from the outside, and it was very difficult to move through the house. She could not enter the bathroom due to clutter. At this time she contacted board member Howard Knickerbocker, who came to the scene.

Jackie then issued an Emergency Condemnation Order on the property. Since there was no running water or operating sewer, this was justified. Pictures were taken of various issues throughout the house. Jackie explained to his sister that it was not safe for her to remain in the house and she would have vacate the house. Jackie made arrangement for her to return to New York the next day. There were also 2 dogs on the premises and the dog officer, Terry Donovan, was called and responded to the house and took custody of the dogs.

Mr. Dowsey was taken to Cooley Dickenson Hospital and then transferred to the Calvin Coolidge Rehab and Nursing Center.

Howard advised there were numerous extension cords running through the house to power a heater and griddle used for cooking.

Mr. Dowsey's daughter, Colleen, also attended the meeting and thanked Jackie for her actions. She said when she visited her father he would not let her inside the house and she

never got beyond the front porch. Colleen will get someone to clean up the outside of the property. She also wanted to know what was needed for someone to enter the house. She was told anyone entering should wear biohazard/tyvek protective suits and anyone entering would do so at their own risk.

Jackie will write Order of Condemnation and send to the Board for signature of Chair. Letter has to be sent certified mail and regular mail also.

Since this property is very close to the Peru town line, Peru police have been asked to extend their patrols to include this house. Middlefield Police will also keep closer tabs on the property and some of the neighbors are also watching for any activity.

Dog Officer, Terry Donovan, advised the board the dogs are doing well and they are still in her custody.

Alan motioned the Board accept all of Jackie's recommendation and that the BOH and Police Chief be given 24 hour notice prior to anyone entering the house, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Alan motioned to close the hearing, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and hearing closed at 7:08pm.

BOH the discussed the Hudson property with HA. HA advised the Hudson's were in violation of the order not allowing overnight stays on the property and the Police Chief had witnessed this violation. She will file a criminal complaint in Housing Court. She will also sent letter regarding the removal of the outhouses and if she does not get a response, she will incorporate this violation into her overnight staying complaint. This will be heard in the Hadley Court.

Minutes from prior BOH meeting were approved on motion by Alan, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0.

Alan motioned to adjourn BOH meeting, Howard 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Administrative Assistant

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

Howard Knickerbocker, Clerk

David DiNicola

