



## City of Methuen Methuen Board of Health Meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2025, AT 6:00 PM

### **Call to Order:**

**MOTION:** Deb Rillahan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**SECOND:** Jodie Lamirande seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Unanimous yes vote

### **Members in Attendance:**

William Goodman, MD, MPH

Jodie Lamirande, MSCJA, MSW, LICSW

Donald Marcus, DVM

Debra Rillahan, RN

Francesca Rogato, DCF, LSWA

### **Others in Attendance:**

Caeli Tegan Zampach

Paula George

### **Acceptance of Minutes from December 10, 2024 BOH meeting:**

**MOTION:** Donald Marcus motioned to approve minutes

**SECOND:** Jodie Lamirande seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Unanimous yes vote

### **Discussion and Decision:**

1. *Keeping of Livestock-Variance, 40 Darius St.*

This was a follow up discussion and final review of the request.

**MOTION:** Deb Rillahan motioned to approve the variance

**SECOND:** Jodie Lamirande seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Unanimous yes vote

### **Additional Discussion regarding keeping of chickens:**

Caeli Tegan Zampach shared that she sent out a letter to provide awareness of the status of chickens and diseases to livestock owners.

Jodie Lamirande asked if the inspections are increased when there is a spike in disease activity. Donald Marcus also inquired about this. Caeli Tegan Zampach confirmed the MDPH raises awareness and asks the public to report any suspected cases.

## Information from the MDPH:

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has reported that avian influenza, specifically H5N1, has been detected in both wild and domestic birds across Massachusetts. While the risk to the public remains low, MDPH, along with Mass Wildlife and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), are advising the public to refrain from handling sick or dead birds and to report any suspected cases.
- MDPH, Mass Wildlife, and MDAR are working together to monitor and control the outbreak.

## **Discussion: Shared Services Update:**

Caeli Tegan Zampach informed the board members the City Council will be taking their final vote this evening to move forward with the Intermunicipal Agreement for the Shared Services grant.

## **Department: Water Department Q & A:**

This discussion will be rescheduled to a later date.

## **Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** Deb Rillahan motioned to adjourn the meeting

**SECOND** Jodie Lamirande seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Unanimous yes vote

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 PM**