



Beverly Hirschhorn <bhirschhorn@longmeadow.org>

Collected comments regarding Town Meeting and Shared Services

11 messages

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To: "Izenstein, Barry" <bbarcelics@aol.com>, Maripat Toye <mpytoye@gmail.com>, "Richard Steingart M.D" <richard.steingart@bhs.org>, Robert Baevsky <Robert.Baevsky@baystatehealth.org>, "Robert Rappaport D.M.D" <rrappap@aol.com>

I have collected your comments on a two-page document.

Dr. Baevsky asked for an organizational Chart for the Shared Services.

I have attached the current chart for Longmeadow,

The East Longmeadow Dir. has not forwarded to me her chart; however it is my understanding that there are currently two full-time employees under the Director dedicated public health: There is a : a Ciek and a Health Inspector. No nurse is employed by East Longmeadow; they use contracted nurses (including our public health nurse off-hours). The Recycling Clerk and the Animal Control Officer are in that Department but these staff members will not be a part of the Shared Services.

Amy has attached an organizational chart for the shared services. It seems a little different than what you saw at the meeting at the East Longmeadow Library. At that time there were to be two general inspectors for the two towns supervised by the Director. She is now designating one as a Lead inspector. This would not be that practical for our Town ; in the last twenty-five years I have only done about 3 or 4 lead inspections (required when there is a housing inspection when an occupant is under 6 years of age) and there have not been any notifications of children with lead exceedances in blood samples during that time period. I would hope that this is changed to have two general inspectors who also also have "Housing Code Lead Enforcement Certifications" as well as the many other types of certifications for inspections commonly required (e.g. pools. camps, septic system, food, etc)

3 attachments

 Board Comments for Agenda Items June 11 2020 Meeting.docx
17K

 BoaBoard of Health Org Chart .pdf
63K

Org chart for Shared Public Health Services.docx

Town Meeting

From Mariapat Toye

Town Meeting on June 23-Since we recently rejected a well thought out high school graduation plan due to the size of the gathering and the mandate for social distancing I cannot approve a Town meeting as it has been outlined by the Town Moderator, the Town Manager and Chief Dearborn. While it is a thoughtful and detailed plan and they articulated their good reasons and their rationale for the importance of Town meeting they came to the BOH for guidance on the health and safety of the Community in attending an event at this time of the COVID pandemic. While there are no direct guidelines regarding outdoor town meetings, there are other current guidelines for mass gatherings or large groups at this time. I have not either seen anything in the information I have read exempting town meetings. I also think one has to weigh the inconvenience of a 1/12 budget for one month vs. the possible risk, both short and long term, of a gathering of that size and demographic. The town management was hired to handle the finances and have done a great job in the past when there is an issue with finances I am confident they can manage this situation as best possible. As an infectious disease nurse for over 29 yrs and an advocate for patients and safe health practices I cannot vote to approve a large gathering in Longmeadow for a Town meeting when the entire country is struggling to stay well and be safe. I would be glad to support people staying in their cars, voting from their cars and a loud speaker from the presentations is broadcast outside by the speakers who are abiding by the social distancing and are the only ones on the field presenting the Town budget and warrants. I would also be glad to post signs or post on the Longmeadow website that the BOH does not approve of a large gathering for Town meeting even though it's supposedly "allowed" because it's under "municipalities rules." Who got the surveys regarding the meeting and what did the survey questions say? I'm not convinced the numbers and the survey being conducted provides any credible data to prove people would attend a Town meeting. I think it should be postponed at this time.

From Barry Izenstein

Colleagues

Spoke with dr artenstein who is arguably the most knowledgeable in this area. Present plan is ok with still concern for elderly. Wondered why Supreme Court can do virtual but town cannot? Advised that we defer 2 weeks and if no surge, then go ahead " at your own risk." Spacing key including at departure.

As the town meeting is not an emergency and as this potentially could involve a large gathering, I recommend that the town develop a one month budget and that we reconsider The issue in one month, to assess whether a surge has occurred..

From Robert Rappaport

I will not support the Town Meeting as proposed. Too many people and too much risk.

I looked at my notes and emails. I didn't see anything in MDPH guidelines or Mass State Law stating that a Town Meeting must take place during a pandemic, especially if doing so puts attendees and their contacts in danger.

COMMENTS ON TOWN MEETING AND SHARED SERVICES: Since June 3

possible unavailability of experienced Health Agent for guidance and clarification at transition is irresponsible behavior and is poor judgement.

I think that a Shared Service Agreement is a good idea and something we should work towards, now is not the best time to enter into it.

From Barry Izenstein

Too many variables right now with regard to merger with e long; ? No nurse, do not see the urgency of "railroading this through." Need thoughtful consideration. Especially we need your opinion And any concerns. ? Should have town council study and offer suggestions.