



# CITY OF GARDNER



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH ROOM 29, CITY HALL  
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**April 29, 2009**

**To: Bernard Sullivan, R.S., C.H.O. - Health Director  
Dr. Donald Miller, Chairman  
Dr. Wayne Johnston, Member  
Attorney Geoffrey Tobia, Member**

**CC: Public Safety Committee –  
Councilors Roger Jaillet, Henry Ares, Alice Anderson**

**RE: Minutes for the Board of Health meeting held on Monday, April 27, 2009**

**5:15 Meeting Called To Order**

**5:18 Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2009 – Reviewed and approved**  
Signed by the two committee members present at the March 30<sup>th</sup> B.O.H. Meeting.

**5:20 Signing of 2009-2010 Funeral Directors Permits**  
Three Funeral Directors permits were signed.

**5:30 Proposal of Tobacco Regulations for Private Clubs**  
The new draft regulations were presented to the Board. The Board had two major concerns with the Athol regulations presented. The Statement of Purpose contained extraneous information that typically isn't found in a Statement of Purpose. The second issue was a redundancy in the penalty section. The Board requested that Mr. Sullivan edit the regulations. Section A and Section F have been changed and Section H has been deleted. One line of Section H has been added to Section F. Section H is now the Severability clause. The Board discussed whether they should pursue having the hearing with the public on this proposed regulation in May.

Dr. Miller inquired if the Board should have the State's legal office review this draft before having the hearing. It was stated at the March 30<sup>th</sup> B.O.H. meeting that their legal department should review this draft before presenting it at the hearing. It was agreed to wait until after the hearing and after the final regulations have been composed to send the regulations to the State legal department for review. It was decided to have a separate hearing with the public, not on the day of the regular monthly meeting, for this regulation. A date will be decided and we will mail the announcement with a cover letter

and proposed regulations to the Private Clubs. We do not have to put the draft regulations in the paper, but merely announce the hearing. The B.O.H. set the date for the Hearing on Monday, June 1, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

**5:45 Old Business, New Business**

The Ice Storm Debris pickup was brought up by Dr. Miller and discussed. The bid did go out on April 8<sup>th</sup> as stated at the last meeting, but there was a problem with the way the bid was originally issued, requiring an accountant's statement certifying their financial standing. This led to some difficulty with the low bid, and the city could not approve the bid as released. The other bids were considerably higher than what we could be reimbursed from FEMA. Upon the advice of the City Solicitor the City will reissue the bid. It will take three weeks from today before the bids will be returned.

**5:40 Swine Flu Discussion**

Mr. Sullivan talked about the announcement from Mexico of flu like epidemic this week in Mexico City. The CDC in the US and Canadian Public Health Service identified the kind of flu. It has some characteristics of swine flu, but there also is an avian exposure. It is a totally new strain of flu and has the basic symptoms of other flu viruses. There is no flu vaccine for this new strain and no natural immunity to this new virus because no one has been exposed to it before. There have been some deaths from this new flu. Most of the deaths have incurred in healthy young adults and this is disturbing because it is indicative of previous pandemics. Mexico has a less sophisticated surveillance system than the US, Europe, Canada or Japan. Without knowing the true incidence rate, it is hard to determine how many cases they have. Because of the location of Mexico City, the CDC has escalated their concern. Particularly because it is very assessable to the US, there are quit a few cases in the US already. It has been found in close border states of California and Texas. New York City has 10 cases as of today. It is spreading widely because Mexico City is a very modern city and one of the largest cities in the world with many visitors. They are discovering cases in New Zealand and many other countries. It is now an emerging disease and has not yet escalated to pandemic stature. The State Dept. of Public Health in Massachusetts has taken this very seriously. They had a long conference today with all the Public Health Officials in the state. Dr. Miller and Mr. Sullivan participated in this conference today from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. If the public calls for information we will be referring them to the new emergency line, 211, at the Mass Emergency Management Agency headquarters. They have 50 incoming phone lines starting tomorrow at 10:00 am. There is a line to serve alternative languages. The information and paper work from the State Dept. of Public Health has been sent to the schools. There are new flyers that are also being distributed to the students to be sent home to their families. Flu vaccine is very time consuming process and takes at least 90 days to form. Antivirals are easier to make and have been ramped up with this outbreak. Mass DPH has 50,000 doses and will be receiving more. Basic sanitation, using hand sanitizer, and other easily used preventatives are listed in the Flu Flyer on how to deal with flu viruses. Mr. Sullivan will be meeting next Monday evening with the city CERT organization at the South Gardner Fire Station to speak on the virus and how the city will be dealing with the situation in case of emergency.

**6:00 Set Next Meeting, Adjourn**

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2009.

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**Dr. Donald Miller, Chairman**

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**Atty. Geoffrey Tobia, Member**

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**Dr. Wayne Johnston, Member**

All conversations are documented on recording identified as B.O.H. April 27, 2009.