

# BOARD OF HEALTH

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

48 High Street • P.O. Box 478 • Warren MA 01083-0609 • Tel. 413- 436-5701 Ext. 112

## Minutes from the Board of Health meeting held at 4:00 pm, Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Place: Warren Senior Center - 2252 Main St. West Warren, MA 01092

Present: Daniel Thibodeau, James McKeon, Travis Baker, Jessica Clarke, Tessa Obuchowski, Jeanna Stewart, Doris Stewart, Charles V. Ryan Esq., Jodi Brightenti, Joan Hamlett – Called in, Judi Grupp Korzec.

DT called meeting to order at 4:04 PM

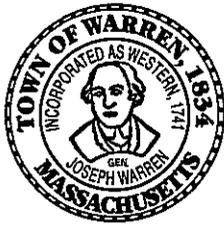
This meeting is being recorded and broadcast via our local cable Access channel WCAT, Facebook and YouTube. If anyone in the audience is recording, please let us know.

**Village Market – Tobacco permit** – Jodi from the Tobacco coalition spoke regarding the DOR submitted for this current fiscal year – “In regard to the public information request with DOR, I spoke to Anna Alvarado-Baptista, Audit Division, Tax Examiner. She checked the database for applications for the Oct 1, 2024-Sept. 30, 2026, tobacco licenses under the name of business, owner & accountant name, Steet address, West Warren and both Warren and West Warren zip codes. She said that they could not verify the attached permit because there was no application submitted, permit issued, or any documentation at DOR for the permit presented to the BOH by Village Grill & Market, 2240 Main St. West Warren, MA 01092 date effective May 22, 2024, and Expired Sept. 30, 2025. She confirmed that all tobacco permits expire on the even year.

Dec 28, 2025 – Dec 2026 verified in the database. Charles spoke on behalf of Jeanna Stewart Village Market. He provided an email from June 19, 2025 From Frank Anzalotti, her previous accountant, to the board. Jodi states from the information request, “Anna” checked the permits through the state and none were applied for the Village Market during this timeframe. Joan Hamlet Director of the Leominster tobacco coalition called in to go over the DOR document repeating what Jodie read off in regard to the submitted DOR. Right now, we are looking at the board to decide whether we move forward and issue another Tobacco permit or not. DOR was re-issued in December. She didn’t have valid licenses for an extended time. Joan stated we were made aware of Fraudulent DOR because of the expiration date of 2025 (on an uneven year). DOR for year 22-24 verified but 24-26 wasn’t issued. Board spoke amongst themselves TB - researching DOR, states it could have been done by the deceased accountant but ultimately it falls on the business owner. TB states we could issue contingencies onto the local permit if needed. TB makes a motion to approve the Tobacco Permit until the end of the fiscal year June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with a new application and a fee JM seconds, AIF aye TB, aye JM, aye DT.

**Leominster Tobacco Control Alliance – re: Copy of Tobacco Regulations and a brief introduction** – Jodie’s, proposed draft Tobacco regulations there’s a check list which was reviewed with the board by each item. The board will review and will revisit at the next board of health meeting to bring onto the next steps.

**Introductory meeting with Hardwick Board of Health and the Hardwick Healthcare Advisory Board re RHTP (Rural Health Transformation Program) to support meaningful improvements in local healthcare access** – Judi Grupp Korzec, a Health care executive, is here on behalf of RHTP. A 50-billion-dollar Rural health transformation program that was launched. 10 billion dollars of funding was given yearly to throughout the 50 states to develop a rural health model. MA year one got 162 M dollars for Rural 1 or Rural 2 communities that are considered high-risk areas. Warren is an R1 category. Once the state received the funds, Neal, herself, the BOH of Hardwick along with their advisory board of doctors have been putting together a model to support



**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

48 High Street • P.O. Box 478 • Warren MA 01083-0609 • Tel. 413- 436-5701 Ext. 112

Rural healthcare. Even if there was a close emergency room or if Mary Lane hadn't been shut down there are still a good number of people who aren't receiving the care they need. An advisory board was created. This money cannot go to things that are billable today. This is to design programs for rural America to get the date they need. A Plan was developed and proposed such as, triage to see if they can send Rapid response, implement tele pharmacy. They are trying to reduce the amount of ambulance usage etc. This initiative was put in from of UMASS and the CEO immediately called stating they are very interested in working with her group, they would bring all the resources to make this happen to pull these programs together. She is here today asking permission to include the Town of Warren in the discussion on how this would work. She feels we really need to bring health care to this area. DT feels it's a good thing. Looking for sustainable programs that could be billable in the future. DT feels it's a great thing and will move forward. UMass is motivated, everything needs to be in place by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Discussion and vote - Home & Green burials application and fee** - A Home & Green burial application was provided by Bri from the FRCOG Training hub breaking down all requirements. DT states most fees are \$75 - \$100. After discussion Dan recommends starting with a fee of \$100 and see how much effort falls on us and evaluated afterwards. JM makes a motion to adopt the home and green burials application, TB seconds AIF. TB makes a motion of a \$100 application fee for home and green burials - DT second AIF, Aye DT, Aye, TB, Aye JM. Tessa states we need to add this as a bylaw.

**Health Inspector updates**

- o Body art and Well regulations were discussed with Town council minor wordage will be changed and then brought to the board next month.
- o 4 trainings next month
- o New food plan review is still in process for Arista, very cooperative during the process but once the spec sheets are given a preoperational inspection will be scheduled
- o Meeting will be set up to go over the Permit application will be done with JC next week
- o Court was cancelled last week due to foreclosure
- o Upcoming court date for 28 Cottage St.

**Approval of minutes from 1/20/2026, 2/3/2026**

TB makes a motion to approve 1/20/26 minutes and 2/3 minutes - DT seconds, AIF

**Announcements**

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for tentatively for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

TB makes a motion to Adjourn 6:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Clarke  
Board of Health Administrator

**Members of the Board Approval Signatures**

