

## BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – June 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kellard, at the Senior Center Conference Room at 7:00 P.M. with the reading of the public notice, posted by the Town Clerk. Also in attendance were: Martha Swindell, Member; Edmund Kowalski, Member, Peter Mirandi, Director of Public Health; Absent were: Mark Carleo, Public Health Inspector; Marian Myers, Epidemiologist; Jean Marcotti, Animal Care Specialist and Tracy Camarro, Public Health Nurse. Also present was Coleen O'Brien-Pitts, Electrical Utilities Director.

Also present, on a class assignment, were four (4) students from Regis College.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of May 7, 2009

### 4 BUXTON LANE

Present at the meeting were Jean Marshal of 6 Buxton Lane and Fran King of 7 Buxton Lane to inquire on the progress made to upgrade the wastewater disposal system at 4 Buxton Lane. Mirandi informed the Board that the sewage ejector pump had malfunctioned causing the wastewater to flood out onto the surface of the road. On June 1, an order to correct was issued and an immediate remediation effort was put into place by the tenants and owners. The pump was repaired and an inspection conducted by Mark Carleo found the system in proper working order. No further action is required at this time. Both neighbors voiced concern for the on-again-off-again condition. Mirandi requested that they contact this office during business hours or the police after business hours and immediate action will commence.

### RABIES REPORT

Mirandi provided an update on the dog incident concerning Susan Nestor of Lantern Lane. Since last month, the Board of Selectmen heard the case and allowed the Nestor's a month to resolve the issue with controlling their dog. No further action is required at this time. Mirandi also reported the following bites since the May 7 meeting:

	Since Last Meeting (05/07/09)	Year to Date (Beginning July 1, 2008)
Dogs	0	4
Cats	0	0
Wild Animals	0	0
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TOTAL =	0	4

## EPIDEMIOLOGIST REPORT

Mirandi began this report with a brief update on the H1N1 swine influenza virus. He assured the Board that plans would be set in place with the schools well before the start of the next school year and that they could expect a comprehensive update during the August meeting. Mirandi also reported following diseases since the May 7 meeting:

	Since Last Meeting (05/07/09)	Year to Date (Beginning July 1, 2008)
Aeromonas Hydrophilia	0	0
Babesiosis	0	0
Campylobacter Enteritis	1	2
Chicken Pox	0	0
Clostridium	0	0
Cryptosporidium	0	2
Dengue Fever	0	0
EColi 0157:H7	0	0
Ehrlichiosis	0	1
Erlichia Chaff.	0	0
Enterovirus	0	0
Giardiasis	1	4
Group A Strept	0	0
Group B Strept	2	2
Hepatitis A	0	1
Hepatitis B	0	4
Hepatitis C	0	6
Influenza	1	0
Latent TB Infection	0	0
Legionellosis	0	0
Lyme Disease	2	33
M.R.S.A.	0	0
Aseptic Meningitis	0	0
Bacterial Meningitis	0	0
Nisseria Meningitis	0	0
Pertussis	0	0
Pneumonia	0	1
Salmonellosis	4	14
Shigellosis	0	0
Streptococcus pneumonia	3	11
Toxoplasma IGG	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	6
Tuberculosis follow up	0	0
West Nile Virus	0	0
Yersinia Enterocolytica	0	0
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TOTAL =	19	97

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Due to the absence of Chief Environmental Health Inspector Mark Carleo, no EH Report was submitted to the Board. Mirandi assured the Board that this important function would be updated by the next meeting.

## CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE

Mirandi repeated how his office continues to field complaints of cigar smoke in the downtown area. Because of this, the Board was asked to begin holding discussions leading up to a presentation on how the Salem Power Plant may be affecting our air quality. Chairman Kellard agreed that Colleen O'Brien-Pitts should provide some answers; such as, if the plant closes, what is the alternative power source? Colleen came prepared with notes which are attached (below) verbatim:

Salem Harbor Infrastructure relative to Danvers Electric and the Northeast

- Dominion Resources purchased Salem Harbor in 2005.
- ISO New England, the electric grid operators, issued an RMR must run order for Salem based on reliability.
- Salem Harbor provides critical reliability to the New England Area which is the NEMA Zone east of 128 north to NH. It produces enough electricity to run 745K homes.
- Salem harbor consists of three coal fired and one oil fired units. Coal Unit 1 produces 82 MW, Unit 2 80MW and Unit 3 150MW and the Oil fired Unit 4 produces 433 MW.
- They now operate using both oil – low sulfur, and a new clean coal which substantially reduced its emissions.
- I believe that Salem Harbor coal units run as base load with a capacity factor is between 75 and 80% and provides a base of electricity to the said NEMA area. The oil, I believe is not run very often for the reasons of cost.
- Units 1, 2, & 3 are operated are equipped with low NOx burners and selective non-catalytic reductions systems to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, with electrostatic precipitators to trap fly ash. Unit 4 is also equipped with this fly ash precipitator.
- There was an explosion (boiler related) at Salem Harbor in 2007 and they shut the plant down. I believe the reduced reliability forced a SEMA to NEMA transmission project.
- During the time frame when Salem was shut down, there were multiple warnings including “power cautions, power warnings, potential rolling blackouts, etc. “ Danvers provided these notifications to the public via CATV along with the Division’s conservation appeal program.
- A new Boston Edison 345kV line was built from the South Shore into Boston providing the capability of power from SEMA to NEMA. SEMA having more generation than NEMA.
- Obviously, when electricity is generated within NEMA, hub interchange charges and transmission charges and congestion charges are either mitigated or eliminated
- ISO New England is the entity in charge of performing load flow analysis on the transmission lines at peak with and without Salem Harbor. You could contact Alan Rice at PLM 508 435-9377 and he would be able to direct you to the appropriate ISO person to get this type of data.
- ISO would also be in a position to tell you how efficient and clean Salem Harbor compared to other coal plants like Brayton Point, etc.
- The plant is run in strict compliance with MA environmental regulations (which are among the most stringent regulations in the country) and was achieved by switching to low sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions along with the low sulfur oil
- New mercury level compliance measures and test are scheduled for October 2012
- Dom implements fly-ash recycle, which is used in construction related applications and in mine reclamation in lieu of landfill capacity.
- From what I have told you, it is obvious that Salem Harbor provides reliability to this area. It would be hard for me or anyone to actually quantify its value without a major black out in this area. But from what I have already mentioned, it’s obvious that the cost of electricity in this area would go up if it were not here.
- Unfortunately and fortunately we are at the end of a pipeline and we do not have the benefits of being in a Midwestern state where power is wheeled in like the spokes on a wagon wheel. We have basically one pipe in.
- More information at [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com) and search Salem Harbor Plant. Reading about the company that runs this and many other plants is helpful in understanding the owner’s commitment.

In sum, Danvers does not have a contract with Salem Harbor/Dominion but ISO New England (established in 1997 and operates the region's power grid and wholesale electric markets) states that Salem Harbor/Dominion is required in order to meet the energy needs of the region. When asked specifically how Danvers managed to maintain a steady flow of power while the plant was closed (due to an industrial accident), Colleen responded that she worked extra hard to balance replacement power and maintain critical reliability.

The chair recognized the students who were present. The consensus among them was that the cost of electricity was an important consideration.

The discussion on this issue was tabled and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kowalski, seconded by Ms. Swindell.

With no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted for your approval,

Peter M. Mirandi, Director and,  
Acting Board of Health Clerk