

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
Board of Health Minutes for April 14, 2016

Present at meeting:

Bruce J. Hunchard, Chairman
Philip Brunelli, Member
Donald Raneiri, Member

David McKearney, Health Director
Virginia McNeil, Health Agent
Liz Hoey, Health Inspector – not attending
Mary Ellen Ficco, Administrative Asst.

Visitors:

Gary McCarraher, Fire Chief
Bryan Taberner, Planning Director
Kristin Kaczmareck, Town Planner

At 11 a.m. Board Chairman Hunchard called the meeting to order. The meeting was called at the request of Board member Donald Raneiri for the purpose of discussing policies and procedures. Visitors were welcomed. Chairman Hunchard provided an overview of the concerns Mr. Raneiri voiced over storage of radioactive materials as well as an explanation of how the department became aware of them. He turned the floor over to Mr. Raneiri.

Mr. Raneiri asked the Fire Chief some questions about the size of the facility. Chief McCarraher stated that the company has been in Franklin for a long time, the lead lined vault is 10' x 20' and is used for testing, and no one enters the lead lined room (all work is performed from outside the room).

Mr. Raneiri said the state gave the company permits for two elements; does the company still need permits from the Town of Franklin? Chief McGarraher responded that is not necessary.

Mr. Raneiri asked if the Town was notified when the vault was being built.

Health Director David McKearney explained that the company should have notified the Health Department before they came to Franklin, but they didn't. It is incumbent upon the applicant to notify us during the application process. Reiterated that the State permits biohazardous business not the town. He feels confident there will be no more issues going forward.

Mr. Raneiri wanted to know if there is anything about radioactive products in town regulations. Chief McGarraher said not at the town level due to the expertise required for vetting the information.

Mr. Raneiri wanted to know how we can stop future companies from coming to town and how can we limit what elements are stored here. He reiterated the company currently in town has two permits for two elements from the State. He provided handouts regarding Cesium-137 and Americium-241. He also provided copies of an article dated May 29, 2015 detailing a leak at a facility in Sugar Land, TX. He posed the question "should we write a regulation" prohibiting biohazardous companies from coming to Franklin.

Chairman Hunchard suggested to have Mr. Raneiri and Bryan Taberner work together to write a regulation draft. Mr. Taberner said we could see if we can limit the location of any hazardous materials in town.

Mr. Raneiri asked Chief McGarraher if the fire department is prepared if the vault is ruptured. The Chief responded that there's a low probability of that happening.

Mr. Raneiri suggested to Mr. Taberner that any bylaw written should include text stating that future firms hoping to move into Franklin must notify the town prior to opening. Health Director David McKearney suggested Mr. Raneiri meet with the town attorney for guidelines.

Wrapping up, Chairman Hunchard explained that the State dropped the ball. He suggested Mr. Raneiri check regulations in other towns. Mr. Raneiri plans to do that.

Mr. Raneiri asked Mr. Taberner if it is legal to write a bylaw that prohibits further locations for biotechnology firms. Health Director McKearney suggested he defer to the town attorney or town council.

Chairman Hunchard asked if there were any other comments. There were none. Then he thanked everyone for attending.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Raneiri and seconded by Chairman Hunchard, and voted unanimously by the Board.

Transcribed by Mary Ellen Ficco, Admin. Asst. for the Franklin Health Department.