

**Acton Board of Health**

**August 23, 2010**

Members Present: Mark Conoby, Chairman, William Taylor and William McInnis.

Staff Present: Doug Halley, Health Director and Sheryl Ball.

Others Present: Michelle McInnis, Kate Hanrahan and Merrily Evdokimoff

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Groundwater Monitoring Points – Summer Intern Project**

Michelle McInnis and Kate Hanrahan are before the Board this evening to present their findings from their summer intern project. The Health Department was very fortunate to have both of these interns to work on the groundwater monitoring points as they did a fantastic job. Both interns spoke about their work which included monitoring and testing 48 storm water points for fecal coliform, nitrate testing for 18 groundwater monitoring points, updated existing 10 year old maps, and sub-metered GPS coordinates of monitoring points. Based on the interns work they concluded that monitoring points need to be reevaluated and expanded, increase the amount of data for electronic monitoring wells and test other parameters that allow one to isolate the specific problems of the area. The interns did note that electronic monitoring can be expensive; however, having them would reduce time needed for monitoring because they only require driving by the site once a month and downloading the data. Mr. Halley thanked the interns for their hard work and for a job well done.

**Acton Public Health Nursing Service – Rate Increase & Marketing Analysis Overview-  
Merrily Evdokimoff**

Merrily was before the Board to discuss the marketing analysis overview and also to seek an increase in their published rates. Merrily stated that the rates have not increased in about 5-6

years and need to be increased to be slightly above Medicare rates to ensure that the Nursing Service will receive the maximum allowed reimbursement from Medicare. Merrily did point out that, if needed, patients can apply for a fee reduction. Merrily also stated that most clients are insured and are not private pay. The only exception to this is for Home Health Aid Services. The new recommended fees of \$55 for the Home Health Aid services cover our actual costs. Merrily also noted that most VNA's charge for a 4 hour minimum and we charge per hour with no minimum.

On a motion made by Bill McInnis, seconded by Bill Taylor, the Board unanimously approved the recommended increase in the Acton Public Health Nursing Services published rates noted below:

Per Rate Visit	Current	Proposed
Skilled Nursing	\$120	\$120
Physical Therapy	\$120	\$130
Occupational Therapy	\$120	\$130
Speech Therapy	\$120	\$130
Medical Social Work	\$120	\$200
Home Health Aide/hr	\$40	\$55

Merrily also spoke to the Board about the marketing analysis that Friends of the Acton Public Health Nursing Service paid for. The results of the survey were that we need to raise the awareness of the service by increasing our visibility, usage, access, etc. Merrily stated that to increase our awareness it will take time and money to get our message out to the public. The Board asked if they could do anything. Mr. Halley suggested that we continue to support the Nursing Service and ask the Board of Selectmen to keep the Nursing service as a top priority.

### **Board of Selectmen Oversight Meeting**

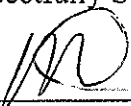
The Board of Health discussed their presentation for their Board of Selectmen oversight meeting on Monday, September 27, 2010. The Board listed their three accomplishments, goals, funding needs and membership needs. The Board stated that they would like to add more details and accomplishments to their report and include all the routine inspections that the Health

Department conducts. The Board also discussed whether or not they should do a power point presentation as in previous years.

**Adjournment**


On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Taylor, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Sheryl Ball, Health Secretary  
Acton Board of Health



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Mark Conoby, Chairman  
Acton Board of Health