



## TOWNSEND BOARD OF HEALTH

272 Main Street  
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

**Christopher Nocella, Chairman**

**James Le'Cuyer, Vice-Chairman**

**Gavin Byars, Clerk**

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**December 3, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., EST**

**Meeting Room 2 First Floor**

**272 Main Street**

### PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Roll Call

### APPOINTMENT/HEARINGS

1.2 CO-VID Update

1.3 Next Meeting December 13, 2021, 5:00pm

### ADJOURNMENT



- 1.1 Roll Call all present. Call the meeting to order at 10:00a.m.
- 1.2 **COVID Update:** Chairman reported 64 to 62 cases in Townsend. City of Chelsea is mandating masks in all public buildings city-wide. Gavin continues to ask about triggers and wants to have a better understanding of the percentage rate. How many people are being tested in each town and county, and how that affects us. He does not believe the Board is looking at the right data. He reminds the Board we are back where we were a year ago, actually, worse and he sees people are wearing masks again but does not believe the public is taking it serious anymore and hopes they will. He concludes he is the last person who wants to have a conversation about mandating anything, especially immunizations. A lot more work needs to be done before big decisions are made. He doesn't know what is safe or not to close buildings to the public. He doesn't know what the employees are comfortable with and what is accessible for the town to function. It is hard enough to get permits as it is and when you start to close buildings things will slow down more. Chairman does not want to close the building. Gavin is just having conversations looking at the data people were more serious a year ago. We are either going to live with unvaccinated people or we are doing things differently to prevent the spread of the virus. Part of that conversation is closing things to the public. Chairman states max last year this time was 45; the town is going in the wrong direction. He agrees people are getting displaced with protection. Townsend is currently at 63% vaccinated but the Board cannot mandate vaccination. Education is key. Vice Chairman is worried about the new variant. He believes that the door intercom system is a good idea but does not want people in the hallways waiting to be served if the office is already occupied. Chairman does not believe contract tracing is needed. The Board recognizes 4 out of 10 people are not vaccinated and they cannot ask people if they are vaccinated when they enter the building. Jim concluded he would like to go back to the intercom system for the Town hall. Gavin and Chairman agree. Town Clerk Kathy Spofford stated that when she closed the office before but now is open and there have only been two or three people in the town hall that have tested positive. She feels the employees feel safe. She does not think closing the town hall is necessary. Carla Hitzenbuhler suggested better signage at the town hall entrance. The Board noted the Selectmen are meeting on Tuesday. Gavin stressed the importance of having a point of access for the town meeting. Kathy Spofford asked about public meetings and if the town will go back to all Zoom meetings. They discussed the process for social distancing in the meeting rooms. Kathy informed the Board people who refuse to wear a mask will go into Meeting Room 2 with a TV and a moderator with microphone will be available for people to comment during the meeting. 80 people will be in the Great Hall 3 feet apart, noting family members will be able to sit together. There will be an attendant available to help rearrange chairs, as necessary. Normally there are around 100 people that attend Town meetings. **A MOTION was made by JL and 2<sup>nd</sup> by CN to request the Selectmen close the Town Hall building to the public. Voting 3/0 all in favor. MOTION carries.**
- 1.3 **A MOTION was made by GB and 2<sup>nd</sup> by JL to adjourn the meeting. Voting 3/0 MOTION carries. Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.**