City of South Portland  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2020

Members Present: Chair Bridget O’Connor, Dr. Meredith Jackson, Dr. Tara Pelletier, Josh Pobrislo (Health Officer, Board of Health Secretary (ex-officio))

Members Absent: none

16:34- Meeting called to order by Chair O’Conner with roll call, all members present and quorum met.  
   Advisor also present, City Manager Scott Morelli

16:34- Motion made by Dr. Jackson to dispense with reading of previous minutes with amendment of Mrs. to Dr. of previous minutes. No discussion approved


16:55- Dr. Pelletier posed question to body on additional “public health providers” in the city. Mr. Morelli and Mr. Pobrislo noted that department head reports that were given to board were the extent of services being provided.

17:00- Dr. Jackson requests that body redirect discussion to memo by council and department report findings delivered.

17:13- Board requests Mr. Pobrislo to explain TB/ epidemiology in department report by Fire Department

17:16- Board asked question as to whether DEA/ South Portland Police drug take back falls under public health and general questions regarding event.

17:17- Board asked Mr. Morelli as to his assessment of no unmet critical needs.

17:27- Chair O’Connor asks member as to whether they can determine if a full time “public health” person can be created. Dr. Pelletier and Dr. Jackson note they need to review research more in-depth. Chair O’Conner asks Mr. Morelli if health needs assessment has been done, of which he notes has not. Chair poses general discussion as to whether contracting a needs assessment should be conducted. Chair O’Conner notes concerns of Fire Department report requesting position fall in fire department.

In process of Mr. Pobrislo offering information regarding Fire Department request, board was educated about role of Dr. Bohanski (fire department medical director). Board engages in general discussion post review of Mr. Pobrislo’s log of activities that position does require hour expansion to some degree.
Board also educated about Mr. Pobrislo’s previous collaboration work in obtaining past grant for outreach project.

17:39- Board discusses report by Social Services and needs toward senior population. Chair O’Conner asks body to what city and NGO agencies they need to hear from to make decision regarding “public health” position.

17:44- Dr. Pelletier requests to speak to Fire Chief of which Mr. Pobrislo states he will introduce the two and establish contact. Dr. Jackson requests that Mr. Pobrislo contact Senior Advisory Committee and ask them to present their noted deficits/needs at next meeting. Mr. Pobrislo suggests that Opportunity Alliance report or attends to note their findings/observations as South Portland’s Public Health representative, no decision made.

17:47- Chair O’Conner sets next meeting date of January 28th from 16:30-18:00 in council chambers. Chair O’Conner notes she will contact School Super Attendant to learn what he sees as health gaps in the school system.

17:50- Body begins preliminary discussion to next agenda creation.

18:00- Meeting called to an end by Chair O’Conner with no discussion, all in favor.