

APPROVED

COHASSET BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2021

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Board Members Present:

Robin Lawrence, DDS, MPH, Chairman

Lynn Doxey, MPH, Vice Chair

Michael Pollastri, PhD

Recording Secretary:

Amy Davis

Public Health Director:

Pam Fahey, MPH, SE

Field Engineer

Jason Federico

Public Health Nurse:

Mary Goodwin, RN

6:30 P.M. Meeting called to order.

6:32 P.M. Dolan Lane Lot C New Septic, Morse Engineering

In attendance for this hearing: Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering

Material used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated 10/22/20.
- New Single Family Dwelling Lot C Dolan Lane Portion of Parcel D4-14-87 Site & Septic Design Plan Morse Engineering dated 10/22/20, revised 11/11/20.
- Form 11 Soil Suitability Assessment for On-Site Sewage Disposal dated 9/22/20.
- Form 12 Percolation Test dated 9/22/20.

Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering, reviewed the New Septic Plan for the Board. Lot C Dolan Lane is a 2-acre vacant lot located toward the end of Dolan Lane. The property is abutted on both sides by residential lots and to the rear is Wheelwright Park which is owned by the Town of Cohasset. Perc test were conducted at the end of September and witnessed by Phil Spath. The material is a loamy sand with very good perc rates, 3 and 12 minutes per inch. The system will be located behind the proposed dwelling and will be a conventional system. Consisting of a 1500-gallon septic tank, flow by gravity to a distribution box, and then to a leaching field made up of 6 rows of 8 infiltrator ARC 36 chambers. Being new construction there will be a reserve area in the front yard. Ms. Fahey explained that since the proposed septic plan is new construction, it will require the Board's approval.

Comments from the Public:

Diana Karcher, 264 North Main Street abutter, questioned whether the Conservation Commission has approved the proposed plans and which Board approves the plans first?

Mr. Hassett responded: The Board of Health can approve the septic plan before presentation to conservation, the proposed septic system is outside of Conservation jurisdiction. There has been one Conservation meeting regarding the plan, the meeting was continued until February 4, 2021.

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Ms. Karcher is concerned with the surrounding wetlands and water issues. There has been a lot of flooding in her yard since the other new house was built across the way. Ms. Karcher would like to make sure the plans are being looked at thoroughly to make sure it is the correct way to proceed.

Mr. Hassett confirmed the applicant has applied for a stormwater permit with Conservation. As part of the stormwater permit the proposed plans must show the runoff is being held back on the subject property to reduce the amount of runoff.

Dr. Lawrence asked: is it usual for the Board to make a decision on the application prior to the Conservation Commission review, is this a normal procedure? Also, can the Board approve the plans contingent upon Conservation approval?

Ms. Fahey responded: as Mr. Hassett mentioned the Board can approve the plans before going to Conservation, there is no hard and fast rule. Ms. Fahey does not believe the Board would have to approve the plan contingent upon Conservation approval. Ms. Fahey stated the plans pass all the requirements of Title 5, there are no request for variances, and it is a Title 5 acceptable system. The Board can approve the plans tonight then if Conservation disapproves them, the proposed septic plans will not go through.

MOTION: Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the New Construction Septic Plan for a Single-Family Dwelling at Lot C Dolan Lane dated 10/22/20, revised 11/11/20.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

6:40 P.M. **Approve Meeting Minutes from December 9, 2020.**

MOTIONED BY: Dr. Lawrence

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

6:42 P.M. **Set Next Meeting Date for February 10, 2021**

6:45 P.M. **Health Director Report**

Ms. Fahey explained there were two COVID Vaccination Clinics held yesterday and today for first responders. A new software program that was distributed by the State was used. Ms. Fahey said it went smoothly and the program will be of assistance with signing people up, getting insurance information, billing, sending reminders to people, and shipping all the information to the MIAS. The Clinic was a big success: all the police, fire, and people who will be helping with future large Vaccination Clinics got vaccinated. The Clinic was controlled, with 30 people vaccinated each day, 60 plus people were vaccinated in the two-day clinic. School nurses will be vaccinators when Clinics are roll out to the public at large. It is not official but, Wilcutt Common looks to be the best place to hold clinics. Wilcutt is roomy, high ceilings for flow, and has a good size parking lot. Five vaccinators could be set up in one room at Wilcutt and there is another big area where people can sit and wait.

Dr. Pollastri asked: Which vaccine did the Town receive and how was the cold storage managed?

Ms. Fahey explained: The Town received the Moderna and not the Pfizer vaccine. The Pfizer vaccines

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went out to hospitals that can handle the super cold storage the vaccine requires. Moderna can be stored in a regular freezer and Ms. Goodwin does have a medical grade freezer. The vaccine takes two and a half hours to thaw. The Town received 6 vials and there are 10 doses per vial.

Dr. Lawrence inquired: What was the procedure used to sign up people?

Ms. Fahey commented: The software is called PrepMod and has been rolled out by the State Public Health Department. Every Town that does a Clinic is supposed to use PrepMod. The State wants all Clinics unified because it links in with the Mass MIIA system. When each Clinic is completed Ms., Fahey sends the information to the State vaccine data bank.

Dr. Lawrence asked: How are people notified that they could sign up for the Clinic?

Ms. Fahey replied: this was very controlled because it was just first responders. Ms. Fahey set up the Clinics in the software, links were created, sent to the Fire Chief, and the Police Chief. Then the first responders signed up via the links. It was a controlled group and much easier. There will be a task force meeting weekly to figure out how to proceed when we do clinics for specific targeted groups in the community.

Dr. Lawrence asked Ms. Goodwin: How many vaccines do we currently have available?

Ms. Goodwin stated: The Town has no vaccines left, we used what was allotted. The State said to vaccinate first responders first and the Town had to have two hundred responders to vaccinate. The Town of Cohasset went in with the Towns of Hingham, Scituate, Hull, and Norwell. In total there were four hundred and seventeen first responders that were eligible for vaccination. The Town of Cohasset applied for the vaccine and was sent five hundred doses. Ms. Goodwin distributed the vaccine to the other Towns based upon need. It was determined there were about 51 first responders in Cohasset and then the vaccinators were worked into the group. There was a total of 60 doses to work with and we were able to get 11 doses out of a 10-dose vial. All doses were used. The Health Director report will continue after the scheduled agenda items.

6:50 P.M. 49 Hull Street Septic Upgrade, James Engineering

In attendance for this hearing: Gregory James, James Engineering, Lily & Paul Emanuello, property owners.

Material used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated 10/25/2020.
- Septic System Repair Plan designed by James Engineering 12/10/2019.
- Form 11- Soil Suitability Assessment for On-Site Sewage Disposal dated 08/27/19.

Mr. James reviewed the plans for 49 Hull Street with the Board. 49 Hull Street is within the limits of the nitrogen sensitive area associated with the 400-foot setback from the stream. The proposed system will consist of an alternative Jet System which is a secondary treatment unit. The applicant is requesting a 50% reduction in the overall size of the leaching area and requesting two local upgrade approvals. The first local upgrade is to use a sieve analysis and the second local upgrade approval is for reduction in the depth to groundwater from 4 feet to 3 feet.

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MOTION BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the Local Upgrades at 49 Hull Street CMR 15.405(i) To allow the L TAR for the design of the leaching field to be determined by the results of a sieve analysis and CMR 15.405(h) To allow the leaching field to be lowered from 4 feet to 3 feet above the maximum groundwater elevation.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY: Dr. Lawrence moved to approve the Subsurface Disposal System Repair at 49 Hull Street dated 12/10/2019, revised 12/04/2020.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Pollastri

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

6:57 P.M. 142 Lamberts Lane Septic Upgrade, Ross Engineering

In attendance for this hearing: Greg Tansey, Ross Engineering

Materials used for this agenda item:

- Application for Disposal System Construction Permit dated 11/31/2020.
- Septic System Repair Plan designed by Ross Engineering dated 11/23/2020, revised 12/23/2020.
- Form 11-Soil Suitability Assessment for On-Site Sewage Disposal dated 11/5/2020.

Mr. Tansey reviewed the plans for 142 Lamberts Lane with the Board. The property owners are voluntarily asking for an upgrade because the house is going on the market. The tank is in good condition. The applicant is proposing to replace the existing leaching field that is in failure. The new leaching field will be placed in the reserve area. There will be no changes to the grade. The system will be gravity fed with a quick four infiltrator unit and will be outside the 100-foot buffer zone. The old leaching field will be capped, abandoned, and left in place. The applicant is requesting a local upgrade of 4 feet groundwater separation to avoid mounding.

MOTION BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the Local Upgrades CMR 15.212 for 142 Lamberts Lane depth to groundwater Required: 5 feet separation from groundwater to SAS. Proposed: 4 feet separation from groundwater to SAS.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY: Dr. Pollastri moved to approve the Septic System Upgrade Plan for 142 Lamberts Lane dated 11/23/2020, revised 12/23/2020.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

7:02 P.M. 29 & 33 Cedar Street Shared Septic System Easement

The Board of Health received documents for the Board to sign from Richard Henderson, Attorney representing David and Helen Drinan of 29 Cedar Street. The Drinan's share a common septic system with Andrew McFetridge, 33 Cedar Street. Since the lot's original layout and the existing common septic system documents signed in 2003, several lot lines have changed. Both the Drinan's and the McFetridge have agreed to the executed new common septic documents which accurately reflect the current lot lines. Mr. Henderson is requesting the Board sign the revised Cedar Street Utility Trust

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and Grant of Title 5 Covenant and Easements. Dr. Lawrence will sign the document.

MOTION BY: Ms. Doxey moved to approve the newly executed common septic documents (revised Cedar Street Utility Trust and Grant of Title 5 Covenant and Easement) which accurately reflect the current lot lines.

SECONDED BY: Dr. Lawrence

VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

7:11 P.M. Continued Public Health Director Report

Ms. Fahey continued with the Public Health Director report regarding the COVID-19 clinics.

Dr. Lawrence asked: How will the Clinic work with a greater number of people?

Ms. Fahey explained: The Clinic will be at staggered times. With PrepMod Ms. Fahey can list how many vaccinators there will be and then spread the appointments to ten minutes apart. Wilcutt is large enough to have five vaccinator stations, staff to log people in, and an area where people can wait the fifteen minutes after being vaccinated. Ms. Fahey believes it will work.

Dr. Lawrence inquired if the Town would use the Osgood School for vaccinations like the seasonal flu vaccination clinic?

Ms. Goodwin explained: At Wilcutt Commons the Town could have appointments spaced out every five minutes, five vaccinators, four-hour segments, five days a week. The Town could do two hundred and forty vaccinations a day, twelve hundred a week, four thousand a month, and then get the second dose into the next month. This is Ms. Goodwin's proposal, based upon the Town receiving the vaccine requested. The Town has eight paramedics, six school nurses, and a list of people willing to vaccinate. The Town needs to set this up and have a schedule ready.

Dr. Pollastri asked: How does this plan factor in with the States priorities on who gets vaccinated regarding the Phases?

Ms. Goodwin clarified: The phases do make it challenging. The State is in Phase One right now and in the third bullet of Phase One, which is first responders. Followed by congregate housing/group homes, shelters, and prisons. Cohasset has 9 residents in a group home which will not qualify, the group home would need a certain number of people to qualify. The group home is too small, and the residents will have to get vaccinated at a regional clinic. Phase Two of vaccination is people over 75, people over 65, in public housing, people with two or more comorbidities. Ms. Goodwin recommends the Town request twelve hundred doses a week.

Dr. Lawrence asked: Is the Board going to send out a reverse 911 call and ask people in certain groups to call in and make an appointment? How will this be managed?

Ms. Goodwin thinks conducting a reverse 911 would be a good idea. The management of the plan is going to be discussed tomorrow.

Dr. Pollastri asked: Who decides what phase the Town is in?

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Ms. Fahey noted: The State decides what phase the Town will be in, and that municipalities must move together as a group.

7:19 P.M. Public Health Nurse Report

Ms. Goodwin stated the Town is in the middle of a surge with COVID-19. In the prior two weeks there have been 65 positive cases and 231 cumulative cases. Mary Whitley, covering nurse for the Town, has taken over all COVID-19 cases so Ms. Goodwin can concentrate on vaccinating.

There is a confirmed high school student hockey player that tested positive. The whole Hockey Team, 18 players, must quarantine. The Basketball Team has a confirmed case, 14 players must quarantine. The Travel Basketball Team had a student from a private school test positive, and that whole team must quarantine. Ms. Goodwin let the Superintendent of Schools know that sports are a problem. The Superintendent agreed to put winter sports on hold for two weeks until the Town gets through this surge period.

A senior care facility in Cohasset that had their COVID-19 cases under control for about five weeks, has another case and a group home in Town has four cases.

Dr. Lawrence asked Ms. Fahey if there were any updates regarding the Cook Estates Septic System?

Ms. Fahey informed the Board she has a meeting this Friday with the Cook Estate's Engineer, the Towns hydrogeologist from Weston & Sampson, and Town Engineer Jason Federico to find out what the next steps will be. The Cook Estate needs to get a field investigation with the correct data to build a site conceptual models to understand what is happening with the septic system. Ms. Fahey mentioned the Board could ask the engineer from the Cook Estate to attend the next Board meeting. Another option would be the Cook Estate look into connecting to Town sewer.

There is another engineer consulting firm looking into the big picture of where sewer is needed in Cohasset. Ms. Fahey suggested to the Sewer Commission that Route 3A would be a good place to expand the sewer, due to issues with local businesses septic systems in that area. Dr. Lawrence believes the Sewer Commission priorities for expansion are South Main Street.

Ms. Fahey has been sending he Board the following weekly reports:

Public Health Director Weekly Report

Week Ending January 1, 2021 COVID-19:

- Continued to have calls Monday and Thursday mornings with senior emergency management leadership.
- DPH call – Discussed new COVID variant. New virus variant does spread more quickly, however, no evidence that the disease is either more or less severe; the PCR test will still be effective even though the result pattern will be different; and vaccines will be effective since the virus needs to accumulate multiple mutations in spike proteins to evade immunity induced by vaccines or natural infection.

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- Accepted two cases in MAVEN from Mary to call, create contacts in MAVEN and track cases progress until isolation and household quarantine is completed.
- Reviewed and edited quarantine/isolation flow charts created by HR Director developed for workplace managers.
- Hosted an internal Cohasset first responder vaccine clinic meeting. Clinic will likely be held at Wilcutt and vaccines will be delivered by Mary and a CFD EMT. Fire will have an ambulance standing by to assist in case of allergic reactions to the vaccine.

NON-COVID-19:

- Continued reviewing and approving annual permits for food, septic, etc.
- HR Director and Chief Silvia asked me to conduct an indoor air investigation in the library where the roof has been leaking in multiple locations and employees are concerned about mold. I took a site walkover with the library director. Roof has been repaired in places and wet materials have been removed. The basement, however, does not have any visible leaks or sources of moisture and yet has visible mold on wooden chairs. I called and left a message with ASAP Environmental to schedule a mold investigator.
- Attended perc test at 15 Marion Way with Morse Engineering and Phil Spath.

Public Health Director Weekly Report

Week Ending January 11, 2021 COVID-19:

- Continued to have calls Monday and Thursday mornings with senior emergency management leadership.
- DPH call – Discussions regarding setting up vaccination clinics. Health departments warned that all towns must proceed together as a group as each new group is eligible for vaccinations. Cohasset will be vaccinating police/fire next week.
- I have been training on new software program, PrepMod, to set up vaccination clinics.
- Looked into whether it would be feasible to set up a COVID testing site in Cohasset. Unfortunately, Fallon ambulance, who run mobile testing sites, does not accept insurance, and would bill the town. We do not have Care's Act money left over to cover costs like bigger towns.
- Accepted additional cases in MAVEN from Mary to call, create contacts in MAVEN and track cases progress until isolation and household quarantine is completed.

NON-COVID-19:

- Continued with food/dumpster/tobacco permits.
- Sent letter to Cook Estate officially informing them that the septic system is in failure. The timeline is two years to repair. They have hired an engineer and the town has retained Weston & Sampson to review. W&S has a hydrogeologist that will make recommendations in terms of sampling required to develop a proper conceptual site model. Everyone is sharing information and working cooperatively.

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- Also met with Brian Joyce, town engineer, and a consultant hired to assess the town's sewer needs. Let him know that the 3A corridor has multiple locations that would benefit including CVS Plaza, 380-400 CJC, Cook Estate, and Dunkin Donuts/Nguyen's Kitchen site. Also presented map with cesspools in town, primarily located in Beechwood area.
- Contractor from ASAP Environmental and I went to the library to collect samples and examine water damage. A sample was collected from the children's library room and a background sample in the foyer. Results were consistent with background so no indoor air health concerns. There was considerable mold in the basement on chairs that were re-located downstairs. A professional cleaning is required as well as a dehumidifier or French drain system beneath the floor.

Public Health Director Weekly Report

Week Ending January 15, 2021 COVID-19:

- Continued to have calls Monday and Thursday mornings with senior emergency management leadership.
- DPH call – Discussions regarding setting up vaccination clinics. In addition to local health, other vaccinators will include some pharmacies, mass vaccination sites like Gillette Stadium, local doctor offices and large hospital sites.
- Spoke with a manager/coordinator from Brigham health. They are trying to fill in the gaps and plan for clinics that compliment local health clinics.
- We held vaccination clinics on Tuesday and Wednesday this week at Willcutt Commons for first responders. In addition to police and fire personnel, school nurses (vaccinators) and CERT personnel were also vaccinated to support future larger clinics. A total of 65 people were vaccinated.
- Attended Select Board meeting on Tuesday night to give public health update.
- We held our first Vaccine Task Force Meeting to plan for future clinics. The group consists of town manager; police and fire chiefs; public health nurse and director; emergency management director and Captain Randy Belanger (EMT/RN). We decided that Willcutt Commons was an ideal location for future clinics. Discussed how to scale up for larger clinics. Will continue to meet twice weekly.
- Christine Murphy from the Social Service League reached out to say their organization would be willing to contribute money if needed for vaccine clinics.

NON-COVID-19:

- Conducted Board of Health meeting on Wednesday night. Approved three septic plans and a deed restriction.
- Attended a meeting for Cook Estate with Shawn Hardy (engineer for Cook), Weston and Sampson hydrogeologist (consultant for town), and Jason Federico. Discussed field activities that Shawn should conduct in order to understand the site conceptual model. Field work (test pits and wells) to be begin potentially next week. Jason and I will provide some oversight.

Ms. Goodwin sends the Board the following weekly reports:

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 1/8/21

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 203
Total number of Probable cases: 51
Number of cases recovered from COVID 19:
Hospitalized cases: 0
Deaths: 2
Contacts traced: 313.

Investigation and Surveillance:

Ongoing case investigations are initiated within 24 hours of notification of a confirmed case. Contact is made with all probable cases within 24 hours if possible. At this point Mary Whitley is available and has received Maven training. She is assisting with case follow up.

Calls/Meetings:

Daily morning calls have been changed to Monday and Thursday which are held at 8:00 am – the Team consists of the Town Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Emergency Manager, Health Agent, Public Health Nurse, HR Director, IT and Facilities Manager. The agenda is set by the Fire Chief and includes old business, new business, and messaging. On Thursday, the call also includes School Superintendent, Elder Affairs, Procurement, and Recreation Department.

DPH call – every Tuesday and Friday

Mass DPH Maven updates – this call has been reduced to weekly on Tuesdays. Fridays have been added for questions only.

Updates:

As you can see from the numbers this week has been extremely busy. We now have 5 confirmed cases in the group homes at 64 Elm Street. Remaining residents being tested today. As far as school sports go – 1 hockey team at the high school in quarantine, and 2 basketball team in middle school in quarantine.

1/6/21 Received the regional shipment of Moderna Covid-19 vaccine. Have been distributing to Hingham, Hull, Scituate, and Norwell. Cohasset has secured 60 doses to be used specifically for first responders. Clinics will run on 1/12 and 1/13 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Willcutt Commons. Randy Belanger RN and Captain at CFD will assist with administration.

Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC)

The CTC managed by Partner's in Health is now fully operational and accepting cases. CTC has rehired many of the contact tracers that were laid off in the spring. They will be working closely with colleges, universities, boarding schools, and local schools. CTC remains an option but due to the surge they are experiencing delays in reaching cases. As of tomorrow, 12/12/20, the CTC will follow antigen/probable cases.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Goodwin

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT WEEK ENDING 1/15/21

Total Number of confirmed COVID 19 cases: 240

Total number of Probable cases: 59

Number of cases recovered from COVID 19:

Hospitalized cases: 0

Deaths: 2

Contacts traced: 335.

Investigation and Surveillance:

Ongoing case investigations are initiated within 24 hours of notification of a confirmed case. Contact is made with all probable cases within 24 hours if possible. At this point Mary Whitley is available and has received Maven training. She is assisting with case follow up.

Calls/Meetings:

Daily morning calls have been changed to Monday and Thursday which are held at 8:00 am – the Team consists of the Town Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Emergency Manager, Health Agent, Public Health Nurse, HR Director, IT and Facilities Manager. The agenda is set by the Fire Chief and includes old business, new business, and messaging. On Thursday, the call also includes School Superintendent, Elder Affairs, Procurement, and Recreation Department.

DPH call – every Tuesday and Friday

Mass DPH Maven updates – this call has been reduced to weekly on Tuesdays. Fridays have been added for questions only.

Updates:

On 1/12 and 1/13 Held COVID-19 vaccination clinics at Willcutt Commons for first responders. Vaccinated 65 people including first responders, school nurses, clinic staff and 3 staff from Elder Affairs.

1/14 Attended a meeting with Fire Chief, Police Chief, Town Manager, Glenn Pratt, and Pam Fahey to begin planning vaccination clinics. We are hoping to have clinics 5 days per week with 5 vaccinators and a goal of 240 people per day held at Willcutt Commons.

1/14 Attended a meeting with the Pat Sullivan Brian Scott, Steve Rotondi, Kelli Gildea Chief Silvia, and Mary Whitley to discuss winter sports and protocols. Steve Rotondi will make a school policy that an athlete must quarantine for 10 days from school sports and cannot test out on day 5.

Community Tracing Collaborative (CTC)

The CTC managed by Partner's in Health is now fully operational and accepting cases. CTC has rehired many of the contact tracers that were laid off in the spring. They will be working closely with colleges, universities, boarding schools, and local schools. CTC remains an option but due to the surge they are experiencing delays in reaching cases. As of tomorrow, 12/12/20, the CTC will follow antigen/probable cases.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Goodwin

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MOTION BY: Dr. Pollastri adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.
SECONDED BY: Ms. Doxey
VOTE: 3-0 MOTION CARRIED

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