

**Board Members**

John "Jack" Mill III

Khalid Abdi

Katherine Tonelli

Leanne Harris

Caryn Smith

Derek Kwok, Health Director

Justin Tucker, Night Board Secretary



Medway Town Hall  
155 Village Street  
Medway, MA 02053  
Telephone (508) 533-3264  
Fax (508) 321-4988

**TOWN OF MEDWAY**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES**

**Date/Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, June 20th, 2023

**Location of Meeting:** Sanford Hall, 155 Village Street

**Committee Members Roll Call and in Attendance:** Khalid Abdi ☒ Katherine Tonelli ☒ Cristina St. Pierre ☒ Caryn Smith ☒

**Visitors Present:** Mr. Warnick, Ms. Rotondi

**Town Employees Present:** Derek Kwok, Select Board members

**Call to Order:** At 7:10 PM, Mr. Abdi called the Board of Health (BOH) meeting to order. Ms. Tonelli seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0

**Minutes Review:**

**Agenda Item 1:**

Joint Appointment

Consideration with

Board of Health to Fill

Vacancy due to

Resignation of Elected

Member: Amie

Rotondi and Jordan

Warnick

*The Board reviewed the (1) candidates' e-mail and letter of interest, (2) resumes, and (3) Medway Charter Excerpt 4-0-0.*

Mr. Trindade explained this is a joint appointment to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of an elected member per the Medway Charter Section 4-0-0. Mr. Rossi asked that the Board of Health members introduce themselves.

Mr. Warnick stated his background and interest in serving the completion of this vacant term on this Board as follows, specifically, his educational, teaching, course development, and research experience from undergraduate, to graduate, to Professorial experience at the University of Maryland Medical School and his more than fifty years of experience as a health professional, medical scientist, medical educator, university administrator and program director for research and training for students from high school through graduate school. He retired and moved to Medway in June 2012 to be close to family. He was appointed to the Board of Health in 2013 to an interim position and ran for the position in the following election and won serving a three-year term. He has been a member of the Board of Incorporators and Directors of the SAFE coalition, is currently a member of Project THRIVE and the Medway Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (SUP) on the policy and communications committee and is Co-Chair of the Medway Cultural Council. He plans to cultivate arts in Medway and use them for substance abuse prevention. He noted his concern about multiple community's issues including alcohol and nicotine use and abuse, and legal and illicit drug use and abuse. He has cultivated broad interaction with various support organizations in Medway and surrounding communities.

Ms. Rotondi read a statement of her background including: (1) she has been a Registered Nurse for fourteen years, (2) has four children between ages fourteen and twenty, (3) began nursing school during her second pregnancy and graduated during her fourth, (4) purchased her home in Medway five years ago being the first in her family to purchase a home, graduate high school and graduate college, (5) her experience as a ward of the State, and (6) her siblings and husband's outcomes related to drugs. She explained her passion relative to substance abuse prevention noting she serves on a subcommittee of the Medway Substance Abuse Coalition (SUP) and serves on the Board of Directors for the

MetroWest Coalition on the Status of Women. She reported the areas of nursing she worked in as well as her experience in the schools. She explained her wish to share her expertise as a member of the Board of Health. She reported her experience once her political party was made known and the resultant lack of support and negative commentary from residents. She noted she would remain non-partisan in this role if appointed noting her oath as a nurse was to do no harm and care for “people”.

Mr. Warnick was then questioned by both Boards. Ms. White stated she knows Mr. Warnick’s qualifications but asked why he did not run for election in the May Town Election for the open position. Mr. Warnick noted he was asked to run but it was very close to when the papers were due to be submitted and with personal issues related to his stepmother, did not have the time to gather the required signatures and submit the papers. Mr. Crowley noted it will a difficult decision as both candidates are very qualified. Ms. Tonelli asked how long he served on the BOH in the past and the top three issues they needed to address. Mr. Warnick stated he served for almost four years and the three biggest issues were artificial turf, heat on the fields, and the beginning of opioid issues and sale of illicit drugs. She asked if he did not want to run for a second term. He noted that he did. Ms. St. Pierre stated she had the same questions for both candidates. She asked what the most important role is for the BOH. Mr. Warnick said the one goal is to protect the health of the community regardless of the cause. He noted education is the key to substance abuse including education of the vendors. She then asked what issues he foresees in the future that the BOH should be involved in. Mr. Warnick stated the most immediate one is the opioid restitution funds and where they will be directed. The next would be education within the school system including the parents of the students’ noting SUP has begun implementing this education. Living in an environmentally safe environment and dealing with the drug issues are two of the most important tasks. He reported he brought to the attention of the Police both the OASIS and Police Assisted Recovery programs. Ms. St. Pierre asked how he would become informed on subjects before the BOH that were outside of his expertise. Mr. Warnick noted his experience in construction and as a scientist allows him to look at a problem, look at the data, and justify the actions needed based on the alternatives.

Ms. Rotondi was then questioned by both Boards. Ms. Tonelli noted that based on her experience in the schools, asked where she thinks the BOH can have an impact. Ms. Rotondi stated more mental health resources are needed to be found and that information be provided to parents. She noted she mostly deals with mental health issues and if not addressed, self-medication with drugs and alcohol is the usual outcome. She has reached out to the head of the Alateen program in the state as if the student does not have friends with these issues, they may have family members with these issues. Mr. Alessandri stated she does not want to be involved in any politics noting that it happens and has on the BOH in the past and asked her how she would handle those situations. Ms. Rotondi stated it depends on the type of politics that are occurring, i.e., if it involves personal attacks, she noted that she is volunteering for this role and does not want to be involved in that type of situation nor should she be. Mr. Crowley asked for an explanation of her role as a school nurse. Ms. Rotondi explained she has been a float the last couple of years covering all schools as needed so has experience with all grade levels. She can adapt, prioritize, and be resourceful and has been able to do that as a float. Ms. St. Pierre asked Ms. Rotondi what she feels the most important function of the BOH is. She stated the safety and wellness of the community. Ms. St. Pierre asked what she believes the most important issues the BOH should address. Ms. Rotondi stated support in a public health crisis such as COVID and addressing the substance use problems noting her children stated the substance use is as prevalent in Medway as anywhere else and that alcohol is not the issue but drugs. Ms. St. Pierre asked about how she would become informed on subjects before the BOH that were outside of her expertise. Ms. Rotondi stated she would ask questions and do further research.

Mr. Crowley noted this is a difficult decision and Mr. Warnick is probably overqualified and thanked him for all his work in the Town past and present. He noted that if someone makes the effort to run for election, noting that Ms. Rotondi received forty-two percent of the vote and unfortunately, Mr. Warnick had circumstances that prevented him from running, he would support that candidate. He noted this is a one-year position and will be open at the next election. Ms. St. Pierre thanked both candidates for coming before the Boards noting they are both extremely qualified. Mr. Rossi echoed what others previously stated. Mr. Alessandri reiterated the difficulty in this decision noting this is one of the most difficult decisions in his experience on the Board. Ms. White stated her agreement with Mr. Crowley in that one candidate put themselves out there for this position. Mr. Abdi reiterated previous statements.

*Mr. Trindade asked all in favor of Jordan Warnick for this position to raise their hand, four raised their hand. Mr. Trindade asked all those in favor of Amie Rotondi for this position to raise their hands, five raised their hand. Mr. Trindade noted that Amie Rotondi will be appointed to the Board of Health to fill the term of this vacancy until the May 2024 election.*

**Committee Member**  
**Roll Call to**  
**Complete Meeting:**

Khalid Abdi   ☒      Katherine Tonelli   ☒  
Cristina St. Pierre   ☒      Caryn Smith   ☒

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, July 3rd 2023

**Adjourn:** At 7:43 PM Mr. Khalid moved that the BOH adjourn. Ms. Tonelli seconded. No discussion. VOTE: 4-0-0.

*Respectfully submitted by Liz Langley, edited for the Board of Health by Justin Tucker*