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Orange Board of Health

High Plains Community Center – Cafeteria
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

(Unapproved Minutes)

Attendance

Board Members Present: Chair Ginny Proestakes, Yasemin Kavak, Margaret Furman, and Randy Swyers

Board Members Absent: Michelle Tenney, Sanjay Aggarwal

Staff: Amir Mohammad, Brian Slugoski, Lynn Peckman, and Deborah Satonick

1. Call to Order

The meeting came to order at 6:35 p.m. Chair Proestakes introduced Ms. Satonick, who would be taking the minutes for the meeting.

2. Vacancies

There was a lengthy discussion about the need for a quorum, as there are two existing vacancies on the Board. It was unanimously agreed that attendance was of paramount importance in order to address matters in a timely fashion. It was suggested that the Board follow a previous precedent and screen potential candidates for the OBOH and make recommendations to the First Selectman, who could then appoint such individuals to the Board. Commissioner Rocchio will discuss this matter further with Mr. Zeoli.

3. February Meeting Date

As the February meeting is scheduled on President's Day, which is a Town holiday, it was suggested to change the meeting date to Tuesday, February 17th. After a brief discussion, the Board members agreed to the change of date.

Commissioner Rocchio made a motion to change the February 2026 meeting date to Tuesday, February 17th, seconded by Commissioner Swyers. The motion carried with the vote recorded as follows: Chairman Proestakes, aye; Commissioner Kavak, aye; Commissioner Furman, aye; and Commissioner Swyers, aye. The vote was recorded 4-0 to accept and approve the motion. The motion PASSED.

4. Bylaws

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the establishment of bylaws for the OBOH. A major topic of concern was attendance at the OBOH meetings. Commissioner Swyers volunteered to create a google document, allowing Board members to edit the document as they deemed appropriate. The purpose of the google document would be to determine and establish proper wording for “excused versus unexcused” absences, religious absences, consecutive absences, etc. The overall consensus was that three consecutive absences of a Board member should be examined in light of their availability to remain on the Board.

5. Staff Reports

Ms. Peckman, Mr. Slugoski, and Dr. Mohammad reviewed their monthly report with the Board members. Topics discussed were disease surveillance, community outreach, and inspection reports prompted by complaints to the Health Department. Chair Proestakes inquired if the Board members preferred to have the Staff Reports emailed to them in advance of the meeting or continue to provide paper copies for pickup. Everyone stated that email was the preferred method. Ms. Peckham will also provide the WIFI connection for High Plains Community Center.

Commissioner Swyers made a motion to approve that all Staff Reports be emailed to the Board members in advance of the meeting, rather than providing paper copies. Commissioner Furman seconded the motion. The motion carried with the vote recorded as follows: Chairman Proestakes, aye; Commissioner Kavak, aye; Commissioner Furman, aye; and Commissioner Swyers, aye. The vote was recorded 4-0 to accept to approve the motion. The motion PASSED.

6. OGAT Discussion

Chair Proestakes advised that an individual from OGAT reached out to her about televising live stream the OBOH meetings. The Board members discussed this option, noting that some of their discussion often involve sensitive materials and information. While the Board agreed that transparency is important, it was noted that no one in the public comes to their meetings. Mr. Slugoski added that all of the Staff Reports and minutes are available upon request. Chair Proestakes noted their opinions and will wait to be contacted again by this individual.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Swyers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Kavak. The motion carried with the vote recorded as follows: Chairman Proestakes, aye; Commissioner Kavak, aye; Commissioner Furman, aye; and Commissioner Swyers, aye. The vote was recorded 4-0 to accept and approve the motion. The motion PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Satonick

Temporary Recording Secretary