

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING June 12, 2008 7PM

Present: David Merry, Tim Barnett, Erik Lowe, Agent John Powers, Asst. Hadden Blair, and guests Robert Tonti, Sandy Dolby, Nicole Barlett, Jay Araujo, George Sourati, and Darrill Bazy.

Wells Approved: Anna Edey 8-2, Alex Alexander 15-31.5

DWAs Approved: Estate of Leonard Athearn 31-68, Fletcher Wiley 30-2.16, Patricia White 6-2 (tennis house), Gary Rome 10-17.

DWA Plan Review: Richard Dubin 1-33

7:10 Jay Araujo of Trey & Devlin Inc. came before the Board to discuss pumping septic tanks without permits. After discussion, the Board voted unanimously to fine Tray & Devlin Inc. \$100.

Landfill/Refuse District: The Agent reported to the Board that replacement batteries have been purchased with funds from this fiscal year and installed. Mr. Lowe found and ordered a replacement heater. The monthly numbers still reflect a \$2,500 to \$3,000 monthly cost. The townaccountant thinks actual spending will be within \$500 of the budget. Finally there appears to be a seasonal variation between MSW and recycling tonnage with parity in the winter, and more MSW in the summer.

7:25 The Vineyard Nursing Association, represented by CEO Robert Tonti, Coordinator Sandy Corr-Dolby, and proposed Program Administrator Nicole Barlett came before the Board to discuss their bid proposal for the Health Services contract. Mr. Tonti began with an historical overview of the VNA which is 25 years old. He has been CEO for 3 years and was on their Board for 2 years before that. VNA is in the process of developing a new plan for private care, because of their recent accelerated growth. They did a census and found that they serve 115-120 people and provide approximately 14,000 visits by aids and nurses. Now, because of VNS's backout and the VNA's nearly completed takeover of all of VNS's patients, the census has increased to 219 people with an estimated 25,000 visits based upon May's 2100 visits. Because of this growth, from 10 to 32 aides and 65 total staff members they are securing new quarters in Vineyard Haven, hopefully by August. Mr. Tonti puts great stress on training as a philosophy. He wants to make the big investment in going beyond minimum requirements, with programs such as certified nurses training with Windemere and Mass/Dartmouth. CNAids are not a requirement but it is their focus. Mr. Tonti reported that they are on better financial footing having successfully lobbied Medicare for higher reimbursement rates. Still, VNA needs to continue to diversify into new private care business for example because 80% of their revenues are from Medicare which will provide no increase in reimbursements this year. Finally, Mr. Tonti reported that they have been awarded the Oak Bluffs and Tisbury contracts, and this is why they were bidding.

Sandy Corr-Dolby spoke next. She indicated that Nicole Barlett has been hired to run the program, but is supported by the whole staff and VNA's entire team. Ms. Barlett will be doing the well-baby home visits and clinics. Ms. Corr-Dolby also stressed that VNA has an

enormous education program including sending 7 nurses to a certified pain management program. She spoke of Ms. Barlett's experience with post partum maternity at MVH, disease prevention, alternative therapies, and that she is a certified lactation councilor. Ms. Barlett also knows third party systems and has the ability to transition patients into Mass Health, Elder Services, or Medicare. Ms. Barlett is well versed in Elder Services and has started on All available services such as MS, Diabetes, grief support, standards care, pain, incontinence, cardiac care. Other nurses have other specialties and are available for support. Ms. Corr-Dolby said VNA did their homework by attending a conference on homecare and by consulting a friend of hers from Stilton, MA who offered a blueprint of their teaching programs and emergency plans. She wanted to thank Emily who has worked with Nicole in the past month and has helped VNA understand the needs and has been quite supportive. She noted that VNA has hired 13 of the 14 employees of VNS that had requested jobs with VNA. All in all, there was a little stress on management, but now everyone involved is well informed in what she characterized as a smooth transition.

Nicole Barlett spoke next. She has been a nurse for 13 years, and here for 11. She has already met a lot of clients. Her vision is to educate people to take care of themselves with the hopeful result of less hospital stays. She wants to do more Health Promotion on topics such as Lyme disease, Mersa, strokes, hand washing, and wound management. She thinks they need to educate doctors too. She is passionate about health and wellness, and wants to maintain good communications with the Council on Aging.

The Agent then asked Nicole's how she views her interaction with the Council on Aging. She replied that it is very important since Ellen and Joyce will be referring patients to her. The Agent then asked about case management and once a month conference on client needs. Nicole indicated this was very important and that the Council plays a huge role, and that communication is paramount. The Agent asked how she feels about the baby-well program. Ms. Corr-Dolby said it is very important. The Agent asked about the apparent cut back in visits from 40 to 20, but was answered that the higher number was because you were previously double billed, and instead of charging for both mother and baby, now there would be a single visit charge. The Agent asked about MAVEN. Ms. Corr-Dolby said VNA has someone that has been thru the training as well as other disease follow up training. The Agent asked about the Charter and WT school vaccines. Nicole said there had only been 4. The Agent indicated the school program needs to be planned earlier. Also, the Agent would like to see money used not just for the elderly and homebound but also for kids and middle age people. There should be educational reach out programs to those groups to promote health and wellness. The Agent suggested that if something was done at the fire station as opposed to Howes House, with sandwich board signage that we may get more response. VNA concurred.

Nicole continued by saying baby care follow up is absolutely necessary because cardiac problems often don't show up in the hospital, and if there are lactation/nursing problems, they need to be addressed quickly and not two weeks after birth with the physician follow up. Further, she pointed out, all moms are at risk of post-partum depression.

The Agent then asked what VNA's feeling was about the vaccine depot. Ms. Corr-Dolby responded that they are able to do it, and that they have ordered re Fridgeration for such a depot. She understands that some may be delivered directly to the doctors at the hospital,

But VNA stands ready to provide a vaccine depot.

The Agent then asked their position on the flu clinic. Mr. Tonti responded that VNA will support the clinic, that as in previous years, they would pay their people to attend. He commented that he feels the clinic has been very successful. There was a brief discussion about increasing “drive by” shots at the clinic, that all felt would be an improvement.

The Agent then asked about health education programs and said he hoped they could join the MRC. He also mentioned a little problem with the Parkinson’s Group that Community Services had said they would keep, but have not. Ms. Corr-Dolby said they had researched this, and wondered how this group would be considered education. Other groups such as the breast cancer, MS, and other support groups are not part of the education program, so why are the Parkinson’s and prostate support groups? The Agent said the prostate group will keep running on their own, and the Parkinson’s group does not want to be with the VNA. The Agent asked if the education programs could be broadened and expanded. Mr. Tonti said they were very interested in doing that.

Mr. Tonti closed by saying the VNA was interested in increased reporting and review. He said VNA wants open communication, and to emphasize public health thru education, wellness programs, and assessment. He emphasized that this program is not designed to treat and provide care for medical problems, but rather to make assessments and then get the client to professionals for care. Ms. Corr-Dolby thought this approach may enable VNA to get to more people. Ms. Corr-Dolby then asked about existing client records that VNS will not release until the contract is awarded. The Agent responded that once a decision is made, there will be a quick turn around. VNA presents their proposal to Chilmark next week, and believes Edgartown will make a decision soon.

The Board thanked all three for their presentation. The Agent gave them MRC applications.

8:12 Darrill Bazy of South Mountain Co. and Engineer George Sourati appeared before The Board to present their shared septic system proposal for the affordable housing project proposed at 250 State Rd.. Mr. Sourati showed and explained the plan to the Board. The Agent asked if any kind of enhanced system had been considered. Mr. Bazy and Mr. Sourati mentioned lots of definite efforts to mitigate impacts such as not having storm drains, roof run off, large lawn/grass areas, or electric (to get as close as possible to 0 net electric with their 5KW solar systems, thus less acid rain). Also, they provided an extra settling tank and Zabel filters. Mr. Sourati indicated that there was, “extensive thinking out of the box”, but that there were also financial and resale considerations. The Board said they would take the plan under consideration.

Emergency Management: The Agent informed the Board that the MRC co-ordinator had handed out pamphlets and applications at Cronigs and the Libraries in both Tisbury and West Tisbury with good success, including signing up one physician.

Old/New Business: Jampel 11-82.4 There will be a public hearing on the special permit to Subdivide the parcel for affordable housing on Monday the 16th, Alley’s 32-58 Plans were Received for the rear shed conversion from storage to produce and other sales. Co-Housing Has declassified their public wells. Mr. Merry signed the DEP notification. The Agent

presented Bill Wilcox's suggestions along with the wastewater management study update. The Agent informed the Board that Vineyard Garden's 16-103 has not provided a revised Storm water plan as requested. Mr. Merry asked for a letter to be sent with a copy to Kent Healy, and for the Agent to pursue it.

Bathing Beaches: The Agent informed the Board that beach testing begins this week.

Permits: The Board signed multiple Farmers' Market vendor permits, and a Camp permit.

The Board then discussed VNA's presentation and health services proposal. The discussion centered around VNA's ability to support the Nicole, the Program Administrator. Unlike Juleann Van Belle who is a single entity, the Board felt that if an illness or other disruption occurred, VNA would be much more able to provide continuity. Also, the bids were discussed. The Board felt that baby wellness is very important unlike Ms. Van Belle. Mr. Barnett's preference for VNA was "cinched by their commitment to proactive education. The Agent commented on VNA's history of support and contributions to the flu clinic. Mr. Merry moved to accept VNA's proposal and award them the contract. Mr. Barnett seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Correspondence:

In Zoning Inspector 32-70, DEP (3), Town Accountant, Selectmen Appointed Committees, Island Co-Housing, MDPH (2), Planning Board, Wright-Pierce, SEG (30-2.63), MVC.

Out PEBCO LLC, Inc. 22-54, Fiddlehead Farm, First Horizon 17-141.