



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY BOARD OF HEALTH

Melissa Braga, Chairperson
Susan Amato, Vice Chairperson
George Ferdinand, Clerk
Christine Janeczak, Member
Pamela LeFave, Member

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEETING MINUTES February 19, 2026

Town Clerk
Tewksbury, MA

3/20/2026, 8:05:44 AM

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Braga, Chairperson, at 6:00 p.m. The members present at the meeting were Susan Amato, Vice-Chairperson, George Ferdinand, Clerk, Chris Janeczak and Pamela LeFave, members. Also in attendance was Shannon Gillis, Director of Public Health.

Call to Order:

- Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

- January 15, 2026
- January 22, 2026, special meeting minutes
- January 15, 2026, and January 22, 2026, special meeting minutes were presented for approval

MOTION: Ms. Amato made the motion to approve the January 15, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. LeFave and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Janczak made the motion to approve the January 22, 2026, special meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Ferdinand and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

New Business:

- Appointment of Jody Gay as a special Health Agent, Animal Control Officer

Mr. Ferdinand asked about Ms. Gay's experience. Ms. Gillis stated that the Health Department did not hire the animal control officer. Ms. Braga stated that she was hired through the Tewksbury Police Department and that it seems that she has a lot of experience. Ms. Gillis stated that the Tewksbury Police Department have hired their own animal control officer. Billerica's animal control officers had previously been working for Tewksbury.

MOTION: Mr. Ferdinand made the motion to appoint Jody Gay as a special Health Agent, animal control officer; seconded by Ms. LeFave and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

- Crescio Trucking- Outstanding fine, operating without a permit

Ms. Gillis informed the Board of the reason why a \$100.00 fine was issued to Crescio Trucking. The fine, along with a certified cease-and-desist letter and a time-stamped photograph documenting the violation, was mailed in November 2025. The company's permit renewal deadline is February 1, and reminder emails are sent through the permitting system prior to the permits expiration. If money is owed to the Town, permits cannot be issued. Crescio Trucking did not renew its permit by the required deadline and continued to operate without a valid permit.

Ms. Gillis further informed the Board of her conversation with the company owner, who disputed the fine and stated that he did not believe the company had committed a violation and asked how to appeal it. Ms. Gillis stated that since it is a legal fine, he would need to appeal it through the courts. The owner asked what the permit fee was and stated that if he didn't pay the permit fee that he would be saving money and how could the town stop his company from coming to town. To date, the fine has not been paid, and they do not have a valid permit to operate. The owner was advised that the matter would be placed on the agenda for this evening's meeting to discuss possible enforcement actions with the Board.

Mr. Ferdinand stated that he wanted to make a motion requiring the owner or a company representative to appear before the Board on the March 19, 2026, meeting to discuss the noncompliance. Ms. Gillis stated that the BOH regulation has a clause for assessing fines for violations. The regulation states that a fine of no more than \$1000.00 per violation per day could be assessed.

MOTION: Mr. Ferdinand made a motion that the owner or authorized representative of Crescio Trucking appear before the Board of Health at its March 19, 2026, meeting, regardless of whether the outstanding fine and permit fees are paid. The motion was seconded by Ms. Amato and unanimously carried, 5-0.

A discussion ensued regarding enforcement options, including the assessment of fines and the number of fines that could be issued per day. A letter will be sent to Crescio Trucking. Ms. Amato asked when their permit expired and Ms. Gillis stated it expired January 31, 2026.

MOTION: Ms. Janeczak made a motion that Crescio Trucking pay the outstanding \$100 fine, along with all applicable permit fees and late charges, on or before February 26, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ferdinand and unanimously carried, 5-0.

Ms. Janeczak suggested starting fines at \$250.00 per day and then moving up from there for any proven violation. She also suggested having the fine as a daily violation instead of each trash pick up counting as a violation. A discussion ensued. It was discussed that the fines would start after February 26, 2026, if the money owed for the \$100 fine and permit and late fees are not paid. The violations need to be verified.

MOTION: Ms. Janeczak made a motion that Crescio Trucking be fined \$500 per day for each verified violation of operating without a permit, effective February 27, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. LeFave and unanimously carried, 5-0.

Compliance Hearings:

- **7-Eleven 2280 Main St.** - Correction/Cease and Desist Order - Tobacco Product Sale to a Person Under the Age of 21. This is a second violation that occurred on January 9, 2026. The first violation occurred on October 6, 2025.

MOTION: Ms. Amato made the motion to open the compliance hearing; seconded by Mr. Ferdinand and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

Ms. Braga read the notice of hearing.

Ms. Braga read the statement provided by Ron Beauregard, Tobacco Control Agent, who was not able to attend the meeting. This was the second violation that occurred on January 9, 2026, regarding the sale of a tobacco product to a person under the age of 21 in violation of state law 105 CMR 665.010(A). In summary, Mr. Beauregard felt that 7-Eleven had acted in good faith and acted swiftly to improve their cash register system. It's likely that either implementing a very strict training and monitoring policy to prevent staff from using their own IDs, or implementing a scan system blocking employee ID use, will further tighten the store's strong policy for preventing underage sales.

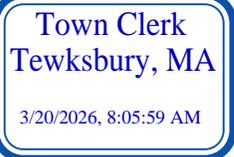
Peter Sullivan and Chris Pendelton, representatives of 7-Eleven, 2280 Main Street were present. Mr. Pendelton stated that he has worked at this location for thirty-four years as an employee/owner. He explained that he believed the system in place was strong; however, the violation occurred when an employee over the age of twenty-one scanned their own ID for a customer.

Mr. Pendelton noted that the store has historically employed high school and college students who are unable to scan IDs because they are under the age of twenty-one, and corrective actions have since been implemented. He further stated that the new ID-scanning system presents challenges, as many legally aged customers are reluctant to have their IDs scanned due to concerns about data retention, or because they do not carry physical IDs and instead pay using their phones. This situation places additional stress on clerks who interact with the public daily.

Mr. Pendelton stated that staff have now been trained never to scan their own IDs going forward. He acknowledged that the violation occurred and stated that the fine was paid immediately.

Mr. Sullivan explained that very limited information is retained when an ID is scanned, specifically the customer's date of birth and the last four digits of the license number. He stated that going forward, when an employee of legal age is present in the morning, he will review the system journal by searching for dates of birth and verifying the last four digits of the license. If the information does not match, he moves on; if it does, he will investigate further and act if necessary.

Ms. Janeczak stated that the second violation occurred nearly three months after the prior violation and expressed surprise, as a strong corrective plan had been established following the previous incident. She asked whether the violation involved the same employee, and the representatives stated that it did not. Ms. Janeczak also asked whether any signage was posted explaining what information is retained when IDs are scanned, noting that such signage might help ease customer concerns. Mr. Sullivan stated that there is currently no signage in place but agreed that it would be a good idea to implement.



Mr. Ferdinand asked whether the Board is required to impose a suspension of the establishment's tobacco permit. Ms. Braga stated that she was unsure whether such a suspension is mandatory. A discussion ensued regarding the current ID-scanning technology used by the establishment and the repercussions for employees who fail to follow required procedures.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the employee involved in the current violation was not terminated and is a part-time employee. Mr. Pendelton stated that his initial reaction was to terminate the employee but acknowledged the challenges employees face when dealing with the public. Ms. Amato stated that taking a firm stance by terminating the employee would send a clear message.

Ms. Gillis read the applicable tobacco regulations, which state that in the case of a second violation within thirty-six months of the date of the current violation, a fine of \$2,000 shall be issued and the tobacco product sales permit shall be suspended for at least one day and up to seven consecutive business days. A discussion ensued.

MOTION: Ms. Janeczak made the motion to suspend the tobacco product sales for one day on Tuesday, February 24, 2026; seconded by Ms. LeFave and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. LeFave made the motion to close the compliance hearing; seconded by Ms. Janeczak and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

Public Comment

Residents may speak on any matter within the Board's public health jurisdiction. Comments are limited to two (2) minutes per speaker and must be directed to the Board through the Chair. The Board cannot deliberate on matters raised but may place them on a future agenda for consideration.

MOTION: Ms. Amato made the motion to open the public comment; seconded by Ms. Janeczak and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

There was no one who wanted to make a public comment.

MOTION: Ms. Janeczak made the motion to close the public comment; seconded by Ms. LeFave and the motion unanimously carried 5-0.

Old Business:

- BESS update continuation

Ms. Gillis stated that the hearing before the State Siting Board began last week. Last week consisted of the company's expert witness testimony, during which interveners were able to question the expert witnesses. That portion of the hearing concluded on Friday.

Ms. Gillis stated that this week included testimony from the DePalma/Sheehan expert witnesses, who also answered questions from interveners. This concluded today. She stated that next week will include testimony from the Town's witnesses, including the Town Manager and the expert witness company, Hiller. These hearings are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday if necessary.

Ms. Gillis further stated that the Siting Board will hold its own hearing on Thursday regarding new regulations expected to be released on March 1, 2026.

Ms. Braga stated that a link is available for the public to watch the hearings either live or after the fact; however, viewers are not able to comment. Ms. Gillis noted that key topics discussed thus far include noise, electromagnetic fields (EMFs), and fire and explosion risk.

Ms. Gillis stated that the hearings are ongoing and that no decisions have been made at this time. She noted that additional information will be addressed during post-hearing briefings prior to any rulings being issued. The hearings are being conducted virtually. Ms. Gillis stated that if anyone has any questions they would like asked of the Board members to get them to her before Monday.

Health Department Report:

- Tewksbury Wellness Together event will be held on March 10, 2026, at Tewksbury High school 6:00PM. Ms. LeFave stated that there will be many vendors and other kinds of organizations representing different types of public health and mental health.
- Tewksbury Health Department and the Senior Center will partner together during Public Health week for the Tewksbury Community Health Fair held on April 2, 2026, from 2pm-4pm at the Senior Center. Mr. Ferdinand stated that he has attended the event before and encourages people to attend the event.
- Tewksbury has applied for the Summer Internship Program through the State to have an intern for the Summer through DPH.

Board Member Reports:

Future Agenda Items:

Adjournment:

MOTION: Ms. Janczak made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Amato and the motion unanimously carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Approved on: 3/19/26

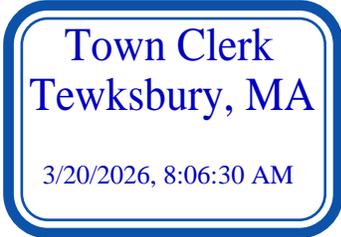
List of documents for February 19, 2026
Documents are located at the Tewksbury Health Department

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Public Hearings

7-Eleven 2280 Main St. packet
Crescio Trucking packet

New Business:



Old Business:

Health Department Report:

Board Member Reports:

Future Agenda Items:

Adjournment: