

Return To 2004 Board Of Health Meeting Minutes

The regular/reorganization meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, January 28, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Carl Seber called the meeting to order, and Jim Vanderhoof led the salute to the flag.

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT, NJSA 10:4-1 ET. SEQ. ANNUAL NOTICE HAVING BEEN FORWARDED TO THE NEW JERSEY HERALD, THE NEWS LEADER AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD MAINTAINED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICES.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Rob Bond, Thomas Forbes, Dennis Twyford, Mariano Gianni, James Vanderhoof, Melinda Conti and Catherine Cokelet. Liaison, Estelle Klein.

ABSENT:

NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT: Jim Vanderhoof nominated Dennis Twyford, seconded by Rob Bond. All in favor.

NOMINATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT: Jim nominated Mariano Gianni, seconded by Rob. All in favor.

NOMINATION FOR SECRETARY: Catherine Cokelet nominated Rob, seconded by Dennis. All in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH ATTORNEY: Jim made a motion to reappoint Eric M. Bernstein & Associates for the year 2004, seconded by Melinda Conti. Carl read Resolution # 1-2004 in its entirety, appointing Eric Bernstein & Associates L.L.C. Roll call, all in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER: Mariano made a motion that the New Jersey Herald will be the official newspaper with the News Leader second. Rob seconded the motion. Roll call, all in favor.

SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR YEAR 2004 THROUGH JANUARY 2005: Carl read Resolution # 3-2004 in its entirety. The meetings will remain the fourth Wednesday of each month, with exceptions being November, December 2004 and January 2005. Those months will be the third Wednesday.

RULES OF ORDER: The Rules of Order were adopted at the last meeting. Dennis asked if there were any questions or comments on this. There were none.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Rob made a motion to accept the December 17, 2003 minutes, seconded by Mariano. All in favor.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

1. Estelle Klein said the Council thought it would be a good idea to have Carl's replacement come in a month before he leaves and be on board even though it might be an extra expense, they felt it would be well spent. I've known Carl a long time and I never heard anybody say one bad thing about him. In this town or any other town. I leave that in your hands. Rob asked if the Board leads that search and Carl answered yes. The ad will be placed from here and the League of Municipalities. Carl said we will work on the ad soon. He also said he will be leaving August 1, 2004.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT/YEAR END:

1. Dennis asked about item # 11, New Practice Standards, do they have any dates in mind. Carl answered, we have not heard anything. The State sets these deadlines. Part of our annual report is supposed to be done by February 15th, it is to be done electronically, they haven't put it on the internet yet. They have extended the deadline. I will get back to the County and try to set a date with them. Maybe by the next meeting with you, we can come in a little early and dedicate some time to that. I will let you know.
2. Rob asked about # 7, meeting with Danielle Rutolo and Steve Ward at our pound. Carl said Ms. Rutolo had requested a meeting with Steve and Steve asked me to be there. Ms. Rutolo has concerns about the animals in Hopatcong. She is specifically aiming at our pound. Our pound is old, but it is clean and warm as toast inside. The result of that meeting was Steve asked me to get a list from Dale and Jill, prioritize it, and submit it to him. We are on our way to getting some things done. Before this became an issue, we were talking about cleaning up the vegetation put in some topsoil and plant a nice lawn. Also have an area where the dogs can get some exercise. We were doing that before we were criticized.
3. Estelle asked if the Board thought about pushing for the regional pound. Carl said he thought it probably would have worked out. He said he thought the biggest issue was the noise. Melinda said because it was right by a residential neighborhood. She also said, believe me I liked the idea but anytime you walk into

a shelter and they see a human, they all start barking. Estelle suggested to turn it around and have the pens face toward the landfill. It is a great way to get a new facility. A great way to consolidate the cost. The location seemed to be the one factor that was holding them back. Carl said part of the good idea about having this is, our veterinarian would do the spay and neutering at our facility. It would not cost eighty dollars and office visits. She could come down just one day a month and we would pay her for the time she is here. She would take all her things with her.

Carl said he did write a letter back to Frank Grisi of Roxbury. Frank was again requesting to use our pound. Carl read the letter. It stated our present facility would be inadequate to handle the numbers from both Hopatcong and Roxbury. The Council is hesitant on expansion because of close proximity to a residential neighborhood.

Estelle wanted to ask a question; Melinda made a motion to reopen to the public, seconded by Catherine. Estelle said if the money is coming from other townships to do the expansion, there is no money required from the Borough of Hopatcong and you are an autonomous Board, why do you need the Council's permission. Melinda said, because it is Borough land. Melinda said we should look into another area. Mariano said if we go to another area, it is going to cost Hopatcong. If you utilize this building, anything that is added will come from the outside people.

Meeting closed to the public.

YEAR END REPORT:

1. Rob asked if anything is different this year. Carl said septic alterations and water samples are down this year. Rob then asked if the total fees collected are low and Carl said they are down around twenty thousand.

SANITARY REPORT

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT:

1. Rob asked if there were any new programs added in 2003. Carl answered no, but Fran received more flu vaccines, if you know of anyone who is in need of one, please call.

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: *Hopatcong/Stanhope*

ALL REPORTS: Jim made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by Rob. All in favor.

SWAT: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. David Schultz: Carl passed around the picture of David Schultz accepting his proclamation that was published in the New Jersey Herald.
2. Carl had a Certificate of Achievement that was presented to the Hopatcong Health Department for meeting or exceeding healthy people goal of 100% vaccinations.
3. "How are we doing?": Carl read a "How are we doing" card that was put in the Health Department suggestion box. Overall, it stated the Health Dept. employees are very helpful, pleasant and courteous. They are at the top of the list for Sussex and Morris. A realtor signed it anonymously.
4. Interlocal Animal Agreement with Stanhope: Carl stated that is an exact copy of the original except we have raised it up 3.1%. That will make it \$41.80 per hour in 2004 and \$43.59 in 2005. It is a two year agreement.
5. Carl read a thank you letter he had written to Vito Castoro. Mr. Castoro lettered the new Animal Control truck at no charge to the Borough.
6. Guardians of Animals: Carl showed everyone an article that was published in the Daily Record, titled "**Hopatcong Shelter Saves Lives**". Carl said shelter is the problem word. When you operate as a shelter that puts you into a category that requires a license. The license cannot be issued until the Zoning has been passed and approved and they comply with the Health Department rules and regulations governing kennels, shelters and pounds. Carl said he asked Dale Sloat, ACO, to visit GOA and advise them that this was an issue. GOA then wrote a letter to the Board of Health. It stated that GOA does not pick up animals on the street and adopt them out. They first go to Dale Sloat. We help our community to be more humane in controlling the population by spaying, neutering, vaccinating and then adopting them into a good home with no cost to the town. After the seven-day holding period, the unadoptable and excess cats then become part of the GOA Shelter.

Carl said they again allude to the shelter. He then wrote them a letter explaining to them the steps they need to take to declare themselves a shelter.

Reply from GOA: They will keep all information for the future, for now they are an Animal Welfare Organization. The letter was signed Wendy Ciardi, Vice President of Guardians of Animals.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Carl read a memo he had written to Dale and Jill, Pound Keeper. The memo states that no one other than themselves or owners are to come in contact with animals at our pound.
2. Doodles, potentially dangerous dog: Carl read the letter the BOH Attorney sent to the Board. There was some confusion as to what exactly the letter is instructing the Board to do. Carl would contact the attorney and clarify what he saying. Melinda said our next step should be to ask for a court date and request that Doodles be put down. It is in the best interest of the residents of the Borough. Dennis asked for a motion to have Carl contact the attorney and find out the course of action that we need to proceed with in order to address Doodles, the ultimate decision on Mr. Robinson's dog. Rob made the motion, seconded by Melinda. Roll call, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Board of Health Fees: Carl started by saying he asked his people for recommendations on increasing the fees. Fran Baldi, PHN suggested a couple of changes on our fee schedule. Presently female cancer detection is \$15.00, our lab costs have gone up and we would go to \$20.00. Male cancer will go to \$ 20.00 from \$18.00. Flu shots, we ought to go to \$10.00 from \$5.00.
Registrar: Birth certificates will go from \$5.00 to \$7.00, copy of death and marriage certificates from \$5.00 to \$7.00. That is in line with other towns. We have not done a fee increase since 1997.
Animal Control: The late fee is now \$1.00 per month for every month you are late. Dale is requesting a \$2.00 per month. Pickup fee for an animal is \$18.00. We will set the fee for pickup at \$30.00. Boarding fees are \$4.00 per calendar day. That is set by statute. Disposal fee is \$19.00 for dogs under 25lbs and \$25.00 for dogs in excess of 25lbs. Dale has requested that we do not dispose of animals. It is \$225.00 to empty that freezer. If you want, we will just repeal that section and not do it any longer. I will talk to the attorney about the impoundment fees. Thomas asked about impounding a dangerous dog, are the fees the same, Carl will find out.
2. Clean Indoor Air Act: Rob said that now we all have a copy of this resolution, read it and at the next meeting, we can consider if we want to do anything to support it. We can discuss it at our next meeting.
3. Melinda said that several people have told her that there has been smoking inside Borough vehicles that belong to this department. It is my understanding there is an ordinance that there is no smoking in any Borough vehicle. Carl said he would check with the policy of the Borough.

Mariano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Melinda. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie Mitchell