

[Return To 2003 Board Of Health Meeting Minutes](#)

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. Rob Bond called the meeting to order, and 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 AND THE SUSSEX COUNTY NEWS LEADER AND DAILY RECORD AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD MAINTAINED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICES.

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: James Vanderhoof made a motion to accept the January minutes, seconded by Mariano Gianni.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

1. Deborah Apgar of 41 Berkley Rd. and Ms. Steiger, Deborah's mothers were present. Debra purchased her home in July of 2000. She said from day one she had a problem with her water, high iron. She was told initially that because it was a foreclosure that nothing was moving in the house and it would clear up. It never did. The water filter system would take filters such as these, she passed around a filter. I would change these every five to seven days. My water would just shut down because water cannot pass through when it gets like this. In December everything went berserk. It destroyed the water treatment system that I had, I replaced the pump and hose and all the wiring. It went on and on for weeks. It never cleared up. I called well drillers and they said we cannot drill another well. I called Porta Soft, they said they know this house and they put the system in for closing, they knew it would not maintain the problem that it had. Only Suburban Morris would help me, they have been fantastic, they put the system in on Dec. 23 and since that time it's down all the time. They cannot keep it going.

Carl read the last paragraph of the letter that Ms. Apgar wrote to Mayor & Council. The letter stated that she had already spent \$6000.00 on this problem. I am tapped out financially and still haven't a permanent solution. Debra added that they have given me all the equipment they have to offer.

Carl said he had been talking about the success of drilling a new well with Jim Vanderhoof. Without knowing the history of the existing well, it would be more of a new well. One hundred foot of casing, thirty dollars a foot and anything after that would be ten dollars a foot. It would be some where around five to seven thousand dollars. There is no guarantee that the water in the new well is going to be any better than the water that is here. He said Gary Landiak went into the files of neighboring wells. He got the results of their water. They all have iron but not ten parts per million. Keep in mind .3 parts per millions is what the maximum contaminant level is. She had 7 rounded out. That is thirty times the maximum limit.

Carl said public water system is four hundred feet from her property line. Deborah has been to the Council for two meeting requesting they extend the water main to her property. The Council then requested I do a survey of the people in between Ms. Apgar's and the intersection where the water is to see if they were interested in public water. I did that and got responses from three people, two said yes and one said no. The other six did not reply.

Catherine asked if there is anyway the Council could see to help her with this so she wouldn't have to pay so much. Estelle Klein replied, they are not so inclined. Dennis asked what Estelle meant by saying they are not so inclined. Estelle said it is just not their policy. Rob then passed around a letter that he put together, to present to Mayor and Council, stating that this is an unusual condition, there are health consequences, and we encourage them to work with the homeowner and surrounding neighbors to find a cost effective means to connect them to the Borough water system. Also asking if there is any roll in the utility funding some of the hook up cost. It is somewhat of a special situation.

Carl said he talked to John Ruscke about this, and asked if there are monies for a project such as this. He said no, only through the State there is a low interest loan payable over twenty years; this is for a new well, again there is no guarantee.

Deborah added, I have been without water for so long with two kids. If there are any ideas out there with a both economical and reality of working. I purchased a house that was supposed to have running water. I couldn't sell it, my whole investment, I've lost it all unless someone realizes that a home needs water and understands that it is a town road and a town that takes taxes from me and I need water and that is all that I ask. Rob said the best we can offer is to try to enlighten the Mayor and Council, make them aware of how unusual this circumstance is from our perspective. Deborah and Ms. Steiger then left the meeting.

2. Estelle talked about the Animal Control position. They are trying to tell you who to hire, which I think is wrong. There are other people willing to take the lower salary, however Carl is the expert and Carl does not chose to take the other people. He wants to make sure this position is filled with somebody that is qualified, that will be here for many years. That is his domain, that's his expertise and he knows what he's doing. Carl went on to say the person he wants has been keeping our head above water for the last year and one half since we did not have an Animal Control Officer. He's answered the bell every single time. The police call him and he is willing to come out. He is very competent when he comes out, he knows what to do.
3. Estelle talked about Deborah Apgar and her water problem. Number one, never close on a house until you have a water sample back. This is not a health hazard, if you do it for one person for a non-health issue; you are going to open a keg of worms. Carl again said an option for Deborah is to apply to FHA for a loan payable over twenty years, hopefully they put a hundred foot of casing and go down three hundred and fifty feet and hope she doesn't have that same problem. She could probably sell some of her equipment back to the treatment company. Again there is no guarantee.
4. Rob asked if there were anything else, Dennis made a motion to draft a letter to Mayor and Council, on Deborah Apgar's behalf, seconded by Jim. Dennis said to include in the letter the unknown factor that is involved (hemochromatosis, when iron accumulates in body tissues and the liver becomes enlarged and damaged), they are not really looking for it and it could just creep up upon you and then it could be too late.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

1. Rob asked about the sewer meetings that Carl attended, items 11 and 14. Carl said three contractors were awarded the bids. The letters to proceed went out Monday and you will see activity, drilling first, looking for the rock. They are talking a very accelerated schedule. The contractors are Marbell, Stacey and Metra.
2. Rob asked about number 3, Mario's Pizzeria. Carl said Mario's is sold. The new owner is planning to keep it Mario's but will have a different menu. It will be like a street café but will still sell pizza. The party store is closing. Half of the store will go to Three in One Deli and half to Mario's. Also Rob mentioned item number 17. The resolutions were delivered for the establishments that went smoke free, Parma John's and Mario's. Carl said they were impressed.
3. Melinda asked about item number 12. Carl said he talked to Roxbury's Health Officer about an interlocal agreement for animal control. There is a mutual need for both parties. We would contract his animal control services and use of our pound would be very convenient for them. It is just in the talking stages.

SANITARY REPORT

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT

1. Rob asked if they are changing anything as far as clinics are concerned. Carl said they are the same. We added the stroke screening last year, plus the skin, that has been for two years and has been a success.

HEALTH EDUCATOR: December 2002

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: *Hopatcong*

SWAT:

1. Dennis started by saying he attended a meeting that Becky Cromwell, Center for Prevention was present. She spoke about Project Alert, it focuses on identifying early signs of depression in students or young people that may be signs of drug use or substance abuse. It is also an attempt to educate parents and staff and the students themselves.
2. Melinda said there would be a Project Alert Dance at the High School for fourth to eight graders, possibly chaperoned by the PBA. They would then have childcare for grades up to grade three. No children will be admitted into the actual alert.
3. The next SWAT meeting will be April 29, 2003.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Carl announced meeting dates for The Musconetcong Sewer Authority located on Continental Drive in Mt. Olive. They are as follows, March 5, April 2, May 14, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, 2004 and February 4, 2004. The time is 7:30 pm.
2. Carl read a letter he had written to former Board members, Estelle, Walt and Robert, thanking them for their years of service on the Board.
3. Rob had a letter from Sussex County Communities Against Tobacco, thanking us for the resolutions for the "Smoke Free" food establishments.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Melinda asked if the Environmental Commission had been contacted in regards to the swans. Carl said yes, he talked with Mary Tackas and gave her a copy of the report from Dr. Roscoe. She was going to bring it up to the Commission.
2. Proposed Animal Ordinance: Rob brought out that on the second page, item number three has to be stricken and we will insert "*This ordinance will take effect upon passage and publication as required by law*". Rob read the Ordinance by title. Melinda made a motion to introduce the Ordinance on first reading, seconded by Catherine. Roll call, all in favor. Passed on first reading, second reading next month. For the record, we are changing item number three.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Carl had a bill from the Board attorney for the Animal Ordinance. The amount was \$160.00. Carl said that is acceptable. He asked for a motion to pay the bill to Eric M. Bernstein & Associates. Catherine made a motion to pay the bill, seconded by Mariano Gianni. Roll call, Rob, Dennis, Thomas, Mariano, Catherine and Melinda, yes. Jim Vanderhoof, no.
2. Carl said there would be a Food Handlers Course on March 20, 2003, at the Civic Center. The Catholic Charity approached us to do another course. This will be the second one this year. Gary Landiak and the Health Educator will be putting this on.
3. Carl said the Rabies Clinic would be held May 3, 2003, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Firehouse # 3.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Catherine. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie Mitchell
Recording Secretary

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