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The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, March 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, THE SUSSEX COUNTY NEWS LEADER, DAILY RECORD AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD MAINTAINED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICES.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Rob Bond, Thomas Forbes, Mariano Gianni, Catherine Cokelet and Melinda Conti. Gary Landiak, Sanitary Inspector for the Health Dept was also present.

ABSENT: James Vanderhoof, Dennis Twyford and Carl Seber, Health Officer.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Mariano Gianni made a motion to accept the February minutes, seconded by Thomas Forbes.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC:

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

1. Rob asked about item number six, The Francis Ave. Well. Gary said the biggest concern there was the on going maintenance and funding. Keeping up with the increase with the requirements from the State. Rob asked if the Borough will take those customers over. Gary said that is the incentive. The Francis Ave. Well would be sealed.
2. Melinda asked about number seven, hiring an Animal Control Officer. Rob asked Madeline McManus, and Laurie Spaziani who just arrived, if the Budget will be adopted in April. Laurie said the increase is not allocated for in the Municipal Budget for 2003. Rob said he thought Carl was under the impression that it was or would be. The matter would be settled one way or the other. Madeline said that it is under the White Collar workers contract and that has to be settled first. That whole issue was discussed in closed session, it really should not have even been brought here. Rob said it is here because it is on the Health Officer's report.

Laurie asked if she could comment on this. Rob said we are in closed session, but if no one objects. Laurie then said her personal feelings are as follows; the cap on that ordinance is thirty thousand dollars, not thirty-one two. It is a five thousand dollar increase over the current salary cap. It is over seventeen percent over the salary cap, when you put in perspective that other contracts get four percent, it is a large increase. There are others that applied for the job that are equally as qualified. It has been a policy of the Borough that when we advertise for a position it is understood that we will hire within the salary cap. That has always been the policy; there has very seldom been anything that has gone outside of that cap to my knowledge. It has nothing to do with not wanting to hire an individual or preferring another. I do not know any of the applicants.

Melinda said she wanted to make a point. Looking back to January when she joined the Board, Estelle, a liaison to the Board, had a discussion with us as new Board members along the lines that we are an autonomous Board. She asked us to be mindful of that and not put any financial burden on our residents. This Animal Control position is doing that. A seventeen percent increase of five thousand dollars over the course of ten years when you factor in additional pension, additional cost of vacation, etc over ten years, you are looking in the ball park of one hundred thousand dollars for that five thousand dollars. I have a problem with that.

Rob said in Carl's defense, he feels the candidate that he is interested in, is more qualified purely based on the fact the candidate has a known track record. It doesn't mean the others aren't equally as good; there is always that question mark.

Gary said the position has somewhat been a revolving door. Looking for some stability and experience is paramount here. Some times the needs out weigh the tradition. This candidate is willing to come out under any kind of condition.

SANITARY REPORT

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT:

1. Gary read a Certificate of Appreciation for Fran Baldi, Public Health Nurse, from Norwescap Headstart.

HEALTH EDUCATOR: January 2003

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: *Hopatcong/Stanhope*

SWAT:

ALL REPORTS: Melinda Conti made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by Mariano Gianni. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Gary read a letter Carl had written to the residents on Berkeley Rd. It was an update on the recent survey, telling the cost of having Public Water. The cost is \$48,000.00, depending on the encounter of ledge.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Animal Ordinance 4-2003, second reading: Rob read the Ordinance by title. Melinda made a motion to adopt Ordinance 4-2003 on second reading, seconded by Thomas. Roll call, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Gary presented the Annual Report for The Health Department for 2002. He passed it around the table.
2. Madeline wanted to make a comment on the water problem on Berkely Rd. The Council was very sympathetic. But it is a utility company and the customers pay for that water. We can't put out \$48,000 without being able to get that money back. If someone in Northwood has a problem, it would be impossible for the utility to run the water line to that area. At what point do you cut off. We were able to do it in that one area because people were buying homes that had water that was contaminated. We were able to because we had the possibility of getting the money back. But in this case, this one house, the rest of the people don't seem to have the same problem. It isn't that we are not sympathetic as Council, we were very sympathetic; we cannot spend from the utility. It is supposed to be paid for by the people who have water.

Rob said at least one well driller had offered their services at no charge to at least assess the condition of her well (41 Berkely Rd.) and the casing. To see if that would likely be her problem, if the casing was inadequate and not sealed right. She declined. He said that Carl, Gary and the Health Department have really gone out of their way to try to reach out to this person. We wrote the letter to Council to make sure every stone was looked under.

3. Rob thanked Madeline for expressing the Council's position and Laurie for expressing her thoughts on the Animal Control Officer.
4. Rob asked for a motion to accept the Annual Report for The Health Department. Catherine made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Melinda. All in favor. Madeline and Laurie then said goodnight and left the meeting.
5. Rob presented Rules of Order to the Board. He asked the Board if they wanted to formerly adopt this set of rules that govern the operation of the Board. A newcomer would find these rules helpful. He said if there is no interest in doing this, we will drop it. Mariano said he read through the rules, he would like to try using it for a while, but not make a resolution. He then said to utilize the rules for two months and then revisit this in June. In the last two months we have been outside this ruling twice. We open it to the outside and people show up after. Tonight it was after we closed and that is one against this. Rob said once we close to the public, we can reopen if the majority of the Board will reopen.

Melinda suggested using the Rules for a least six months to give everybody a good feel for exactly what this is, learn it and to tweak it. Rob said the Board will look at this again in September.

Mariano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Melinda. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemarie Mitchell
Recording Secretary

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