

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Joel Servoss 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 POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD MAINTAINED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICES.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joel Servoss, Craig Bradley, Selma Reichert, Rob Bond, Jim Vanderhoof, Thom Forbes and Mariano Gianni. Phil Morlock, Health Officer and Rosie Mitchell, Recording Secretary were also present

ABSENT:

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

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: Council President, Estelle Klein was present. Estelle said she had only one thing to say, she hopes the Board will seriously consider getting another attorney. Joel said this will come up under correspondence.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT: Phil went over his entire report. He then asked if there were questions. No questions.

SANITARIAN REPORT:

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT: Phil said there were about 75 residents for the SMAC clinic; you could call it a success. There were also close to 600 people done for the flu vaccination.

HEALTH EDUCATOR

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: Hopatcong/Stanhope

SWAT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Eric Bernstein: Joel said he had been informed that Mr. Bernstein was the Board of Health Attorney in the past and he is interested in pursuing that position. He sent in a rather impressive portfolio of all the people in the firm. Joel said the January meeting is when we appoint the attorney for the year. What we should do is send Mr. Bernstein as well as our current attorney that is working in our present contract, a notice asking to send in their hourly rate, what they will charge. If the fees are the same then we have to decide, if they are different, that solves the question right there. Estelle said she wants to point this out, King never notified you (the Board) about anything with the Animal Control Officer. You never even knew what was going on. Joel said he knew from hear say, but he did not hear anything from him. Estelle said all of you should be very upset that you were by passed by your own attorney. Joel said he is not clear on how it got over to the Council, I kind of thought it was through Mr. Ursin. Estelle no, right in your by laws you have the right to appoint the ACO and you have the right to fire him. Everybody went behind your back and did it surreptitiously. Rob said we should ask Mr. King for not only his fees but for his portfolio.
2. Phil passed a letter around to Board members. This letter was sent to establishments that sell tobacco in the Borough. The State is banning flavored cigarettes and this letter is to inform Boards of Health.
3. Estelle announced that she had to return to the Mayor and Council meeting next door. She said that Mayor Petillo is not making any new replacements for the Board of Health. Those of you that your time is up, you are being re-appointed. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and then left the meeting.
4. Phil read a letter concerning drug counseling. He said the Mayor is interested in perhaps having that service available within the Borough. This letter is from Becky Carlson, she is one of the people that run the Center for Prevention and Counseling. The letter stated they were unable to bring counselors down to Hopatcong for a variety of reasons. She stated they did receive a grant to work specifically in Hopatcong to address substance abuse which starts April 1, 2009. This will allow them to address prevention and assess the needs of Hopatcong. At this time counseling is offered in Newton at their office. They recommend continuing to advise the community of the services they offer.
5. Phil presented a letter written by Rob and Terry Bond. He will discuss this under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Medicare Reimbursement (Foot Clinic): Phil said a question came up with the Council about Medicare paying for our Foot Clinic. Because it is not a full time clinic, they will not pay for that kind of service. The only exception for Medicare is Flu Clinic.
2. Animal Census: Phil said we have ceased this operation because of the weather and darkness. We will hopefully restart again in the spring. The guy we have is very good. It is working.
3. Septic Management: Phil said he contacted the Rutgers Cooperative Extension in Newton and asked them for any help they could give us. No one has gotten back to us yet. He said he also contacted the person who runs the County Environmental Health Program at the DEP. She said in a couple of weeks, we may have a sample ordinance.

Rob talked about the letter he sent to Dr. Obropta from the Rutgers Extension. Rob said this is the person that was involved with Montgomery Township in modifying their database for tracking a septic management ordinance. Rob said he sent Dr. Obropta a note, as a private citizen. Rob mentioned the State requirement to Dr. Obropta, whether he was aware of it and if Rutgers had looked at maybe providing a database that communities could use for little or no charge. Phil said this is what is wrong with New Jersey. They will give you the regulation but they do not give you the boiler plate or some of the other things you need to implement, everybody is on their own. Rob said the school is probably on break and hopefully by January Dr. Obropta will get back to him.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pound Improvements: Phil said we fixed the roof fascia, it was rotted away and had to be repaired. The other improvement we made was we put a hot water faucet outside to hose down the feces on the cement. Phil said the Boy Scouts did come up there and paint the building a couple of weeks back. The last few years we've improved it.
Jim would like the Board to write a letter to the Boy Scouts thanking them; he made a motion to do so. Rob seconded the motion.
2. Phil said Dale Sloat had surgery last week and is at home resting. He cannot speak and we expect to see him back next week.
3. Rob thanked Joel for his great work as President. It was a difficult year with lots of unusual and some cases tragic things happened. He added, great job.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mariano, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.