

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, October 22, 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, Jim Vanderhoof, Thom Forbes and Mariano Gianni. Phil Morlock, Health Officer and Rosie Mitchell, Recording Secretary were also present. Rob Bond, after roll call.

ABSENT:

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

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: Councilperson, Estelle Klein was present. She started by saying, if you were not aware, Dale Sloat was brought up on charges at the last meeting and never should have been brought up on charges before the Mayor and Council. That never should have happened. Estelle left copies of a letter for the BOH members from Eric Bernstein; he was the attorney for the BOH at one time. He gave all the reasons why we are an Autonomous Board. Estelle also said, the Borough of Hopatcong's Code states the Board appoints the ACO, he is under the Board's jurisdiction and your jurisdiction alone. You should make sure that Mayor and Council next door knows that. Don't ever let them do that to Dale again. Mariano asked who pays him. Estelle said, it doesn't matter who pays him. Even though they pay him, that doesn't have anything to do with it.

Joel said, I agree, that kind of a matter should have probably come through this Board and I think in the future that will be the case. Some of the information got outside of this department. Estelle said, John Ursin agrees that that letter from Eric Bernstein answers all the questions. Joel said, I think it does too and it should be handled internally and from this point on that is the way it has to be.

Estelle said; don't ever let anybody take your autonomy away from you because that will be the end of the BOH.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT: Phil went over his entire report. He then asked if there were questions.

1. Phil said he submitted the Budget (2009). Our Budget is basically flat except for one item.

SANITARIAN REPORT:

1. Thom asked what the Misc. Nuisance Complaints are. Phil said they are junk and litter. Some of them we refer to Zoning depending on what is there.
2. Rob asked about an item on the report, Embargo/Voluntary Destruction. Phil said that if there is a fire in a food establishment, we embargo the food and then tell them to throw it away.

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT:

1. Joel commented that Fran has been busy with her clinics.

HEALTH EDUCATOR

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: Hopatcong/Stanhope/Jefferson

1. Rob stated that deer are not listed on this report and then asked if Dale gets involved with that. Phil said we have a contract for deer removal.
2. Selma questioned the sick raccoon; she asked if it were ill, does he assume it is not rabies. Phil said the first thing we want to know if anybody was exposed. If no one was exposed and it was just a nuisance, ill or dying we would euthanize it. The first thing you really want to know is did it bite anybody or any pets. If that is the case we will send the brain tissue to Trenton to make sure it didn't have rabies. Very serious business, life or death business.

SWAT:

1. Selma attended the SWAT meeting. She started by saying there are eight active programs for the year. One of them is Kids for Kids in which juniors and seniors visit children basically in the sixth grade. They say this goes so well that children that will not speak to an adult but will speak to an older child. The call for it has doubled in a year. They only do this once a month. The older kids have to be a role model; they can't have problems in school.

2. Quest is another program, they meet once a week and every month or two they go on a really great trip. This is a very diversified group of kids. They want the kids in this group to get camaraderie because they figure when they see them in school, when normally they would never bother with each other, there is something there.
3. Selma talked a little about DARE and Project Graduation. She said the students work all year and then have a big party. The kids do the fund raising for this and they love it.
4. Safe Home: The response to this is less than ½ of 1 percent, very bad. The parents are supposed to respond with their information, phone numbers, and addresses and say that someone would be home for children if they needed it. The response to this was not good at all. Five thousand flyers went out and they got like one hundred back. They will try to improve this.
5. Senior Citizens Lunch and Learn: Seventy five percent of the young people that are abusing drugs, are finding it in medicine cabinets at home. The big deal is that seniors are not aware, parents are probably up on this but the older people are not. They bring them in, they have a lunch and they try to explain to them to keep their things where it is safe.
6. There is something new where they want to make people aware of the fact that everyone has something good that you could put into the community. They want to train children and basically everyone just to have a more positive attitude and learn that everyone has something to put into the community.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Phil passed a letter around addressed to Fran Baldi from Congressman Frelinghuysen. This was a thank you for a successful Diabetic Screening that Fran held.
2. Phil passed an email around thanking Dale Sloat, a young dog escaped from home and Dale helped the resident.
3. An issue of Food Talk was passed around. This newsletter is sent out quarterly, courtesy of the Hopatcong Health Dept.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Animal Census: Phil said we have 1880 licenses for 2008 so far. We are 150 licenses over last year. We have issued 94 summonses, 73 have been resolved. We have another 36 summonses waiting to be issued.
2. Rob talked about the pumping issue that was talked about at the last BOH meeting. He asked Phil if there is a list of requirements in terms of what the State requires us to track. Phil said they want us to pass an ordinance first which we have until May of next year to do. Rob asked what specifically we need to track and it would be good to have a list of all those things that need to be tracked. Phil said first we have to develop an inventory of who we have to regulate. It is probably going to be about 3300 homes. We have to generate this based on tax records, records of who is paying sewer fees and who isn't. We will deduct them out from a mass file of about 6200 reality improvements. Then we will come up with an inventory and then we will pass an ordinance. Estelle asked what if the septic system collapses when it is pumped. Phil said he pointed this out to the Board. Estelle said that is why they gave this up last time, every body's septic system collapsed. Rob said he would suggest studying that earlier than later just so we can get a handle on what it is, how impossible the problem is. Bring it to the Mayor's and Council attention earlier than later is always a good thing.
2. Rob said the donations from Pet Goods to the Pound, I don't know where Dale stands with his needs, he should let my daughter know if he needs stuff, she has been taking stuff to other shelters. Dale will call her.
3. Rob asked about our web site. He suggested the Health Dept. site may need some work. He received a call at his home from someone asking if they had reached the Health Dept. Rob went to the Borough web site and said he couldn't find the 770-1200 number there.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution: 6-2008, refund of Foot Clinic fees in the amount of \$ 7.00. Joel read the Resolution in its entirety. Thom made a motion to refund the money, seconded by Selma. Roll call, Joel, Craig, Selma, Mariano, Rob, Thom and Jim, yes. All in favor.
2. Flu Clinic: the Clinics will be Oct. 23rd here at the Health Dept. and Oct. 24th at the Civic Center.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.