

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 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, Thomas Forbes, Rob Bond, Selma Reichert, Mariano Gianni and Craig Bradley. James Vanderhoof after roll call. James Breiten from Sussex County Health Department and Liaison, Howard Baker, Dale Sloat, ACO and Jan Sloat were also present.

ABSENT: .

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

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: No public present.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: Hopatcong/Stanhope/Jefferson

1. Joel commented about the several bear sightings in Hopatcong.
2. Joel asked Dale if the mileage amount is the total for both Hopatcong and Stanhope and Dale answered yes. He also said this is mileage to take bats to Morristown and Fredon for testing.

SWAT: Selma said there was a meeting today and she could not make it. It was to finalize something to do with the Stand Against Drugs here in Hopatcong. Selma said she went two weeks ago and met Lisa Schuffenhauer, the new coordinator. They discussed the fact that school funds are down 10%. According to the figures a lot of people with school aged children are moving.

We will have a Red Ribbon Week against drugs in Hopatcong in the end of October. They will be passing out red ribbons at the corner here at the intersection on Monday, October 26th from 4 to 6 pm. Thursday October 29th there will be a rally in the High School, this is directed to the six graders. This is more for the parents than the children. There are 210 students and they are concerned about getting the parents in. They are sending home a Save the Date flyer with the back to school night information. Sylvia wants to print up and send individual invitations to the parents and they will also serve pizza.

Selma said there is another meeting next week she will be going to.

ANIMAL CONTROL: Joel wanted to go back, he asked Dale if Jefferson on his report was something new. Dale said an agreement was made before Mr. Morlock left with Jefferson for daytime coverage just like I suggested for Byram. It brings in revenue and I can handle it. Joel asked if they have an ACO (Jefferson), Dale said yes but again, there are no assistants around that are responsible. There are no assistants around during the day that aren't working. They have nobody if someone gets sick. He went on to say the Mutual Aid we have is signed with Roxbury that if I am out she takes over (Roxbury's ACO) if she is out I take over. I was told by Mr. Morlock all these years that I was to go Mt. Olive even though there is not a signed contract. And we don't get paid by them. Jefferson and Stanhope, we get paid. Craig asked, they do not have any back up. Dale said it is very hard to find and nobody is responsible. Like I said the Administrator has just lost yours, if I get sick or I am out or I go on vacation, this town will not be covered. They will not work for that. Joel said we will talk about this under old business.

Rob stated that it seemed there were a whole lot of gravely ill animals in August, was this more than normal. Dale said yes, it could have been that we had a cold Spring, they had their babies in the cold Spring, it really did not warm up for quite awhile. Could be a sickness or a virus going around, things go in cycles.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. There were two letters from the Sussex County Health Dept. that James Breiten copied to the Hopatcong Health Dept. One was Right to Know survey and the other was a housing complaint.

2. All Board members were given information on the New Jersey Local Board of Health Association. Joel said we are invited to an annual conference for those of us who would like to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Animal Control Assistant: Joel said we have an issue here with our Assistant Animal Control Officer. At our last meeting we passed a resolution to keep him on board, he put a request in January for a raise of \$ 5.00 per hour, from \$ 15.00 to \$ 20.00 per hour. This is for emergency coverage. We approved that. He has been working for this Borough for as long as I know and he has always taken care of everything in a responsible reasonable way. It amounts to maybe two or three times a year. We approved that unanimously. A week later, Borough Council made their own resolution disallowing that basically. Joel went on to say, I am a little annoyed with Howard, we talked here that night and you said you would make it clear to them what was going on and when I went over to talk to the Mayor, she said she knew nothing about our resolution even though we sent it over to Lorraine they had it there and Catherine knew about it because I handed it to her. The Mayor told me she was going to get this straightened out. Well, he is gone we have no back up. He said he is not working for Hopatcong anymore. He will cover the other Boroughs who are paying \$ 20.00 an hour but he won't work for Hopatcong.

Howard apologized to the Board for not following through on this. He said he spoke to Catherine this afternoon about this, the fact that he does not carry his own insurance, an important issue on this whole thing. In order to get \$ 20.00 per hour he would have to carry his own insurance to cover any problems that might come up in the execution of his duties. If he doesn't want to do that, he can be hired as a part time employee by the Borough at \$ 15.00 per hour because we would have to incur the expense of covering him on our insurance policies.

Dale asked to say something. The ACO's out there are getting \$ 20.00 per hour if we are on the books with the township that is great, it is \$ 20.00 per hour, we all get it. If it is the liability issue that is the problem, I guess you are right.

Howard went on to say that Catherine has advertised for the position and had gotten three or four candidates that do have certification and the same sort of deal would be available to them.

Joel said this brings up another issue that we have to discuss. These people, Dale included, the assistants, the Pound Keepers, they all technically work for the Board of Health. If somebody is hiring people, we are supposed to do it not the town administrator. I did not know she put an ad out and is interviewing. She knows nothing about what they do. Howard said it is her understanding that the Borough does the hiring. Joel said what would be our purpose if they are working under her guidelines. We might as well just fold up. He also said the Mayor told him she wants the health provisions provided to the community, overseen by a citizens committee, not politicians.

There was a long discussion on this.

Rob asked Dale how common is it for an ACO to carry their own insurance. Dale said not very common, he does not carry his own.

Howard said he would see if he could talk to Sylvia (Mayor) this evening and she can talk to Catherine (Administrator) and we may be able to unravel this particular mess within a few days.

Rob said his preference would be in terms of the bigger picture issue, this is an urgent matter that we need to resolve. I would prefer to separate the two otherwise we could get this issue being dragged down by the larger power struggle.

2. Pound Keeper: Joel said we have another issue. Our Pound Keeper, Mary Jane Monaco, she sent a letter to the Borough of Hopatcong, Joel read the letter to the Board. This letter states she is going on temporary disability starting immediately at the recommendation of her doctor. Somehow in the same interim, the same resolution that dealt with Brian Dunster, hired a person to replace her. Mary Koegler has been hired as the Pound Keeper at \$ 10.00 per hour. We have a note here from Catherine, she states, the Board needs to pass a resolution accepting Mary Jane Monaco's resignation. Joel went on to say he told the Mayor, as I read the letter she did not resign, she is asking for a temporary leave of responsibly until she recovers. Thom asked to whom this letter was written and Joel answered, the Borough of Hopatcong Attn: Catherine Steinel, Ron Jobeless and Dale Sloat.

Jan Sloat asked to offer some opinion. Jan said she thinks the Administrator is trying to eliminate the ACO as a full time position and have it on call situation as in Byram. This makes me nervous as a wife

and as someone who lives in this town knowing how much wild life and domestic animal life need control on a full time basis. If that is where she is headed, I just hope it is not.

Joel asked if the Board would like to put together a request in writing to the Mayor and to Catherine to come to our next meeting to meet with us as a group and get this out, what our role is, what is our authority. Rob suggested, if we want to put that in writing send it to the Borough Administrator reminding her that this is the role and responsibility of the Board of Health and we feel in certain areas that we haven't had the communication and acknowledgement. We would be willing to meet and discuss these if she has further questions or comments. Rather than have a meeting dedicated to it.

The issue of Mary Jane Monaco will be tabled until additional information is provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mariano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Rosie Mitchell