

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Thom Forbes called the meeting to order and James Vanderhoof 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: Thom Forbes, Selma Reichert, Rob Bond, James Vanderhoof, Craig Bradley and Joel Servoss. Mariano Gianni after roll call.

Councilman Howard Baker and James Breiten, REHS from Sussex County Environmental Health were also present.

ABSENT:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting, seconded by Joel. All in favor.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Estelle Klein said she just wanted everyone to know the Board of Health is an Autonomous Board and I understand that your Animal Control Warden has been given a new assignment. She asked Thom if that was correct, and Thom replied yes, he now answers to the Chief of Police. Estelle said that is ok, he is very happy with the new person. Her question is, does she (Catherine Steinel) have the authority to do that? Howard said recent history is that the ACO reported to the DPW, on the day to day level he needs to report to somebody. Thom said at the time we lost our Health Officer, there was some discussion on how that chain of command would materialize. We narrowed it down to two people, either Ron Jobeless or Chief Swanson. The Board was ok with either of those two people. Thom said as far as whether she has the authority to make that change, I think she does as least to the extent that we had been given that choice at the time we lost our Health Officer. Thom read a letter from Catherine Steinel dated June 30, 2010, telling of the ACO change effective July 5, 2010.

Estelle said she gets along very well with Catherine, extremely well. Thom said he respects that she has a tough job. He then asked Estelle if there was anything else that she wanted to discuss? Another item will be discussed under New Business.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:

PRESIDENT REPORT:

1. On the 21st of this month Thom spoke with Estelle regarding the topics we just discussed.
2. Thom and Mariano met with Dale Sloat, ACO on the same and another matter on the 23rd of this month, we will get into that under New Business.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

1. James said he had a couple of nuisance complaints for unkempt smelly houses that we are working on.
2. Beach inspections are all done except for one. One beach is closed for three consecutive failures for bad water.
3. Rob asked what is the Safe Water correspondence from a restaurant in town. James said the County tracks all the water samples from restaurants and beaches, this lab did not submit the nitrate results for the year for this establishment. They have to do bacteria quarterly and nitrates yearly for the well. James said it was tested, the lab just didn't submit it.
4. James talked about a resident that he is working with, an elderly guy that the neighbors are complaining about. We don't think he has running water in the house and we are getting odor complaints from the neighbors. James said he wants to see if he can get him some assistance. He said it is a sad situation. We could get him help if he does not resist, if he does not want to be helped we have to drag him to court. Thom asked that Jamie keep the Board informed so that they can take any action that they can.

REGISTRAR REPORT:

ANIMAL CONTROL: Hopatcong/Stanhope/Jefferson

SWAT:

1. Selma had flyers for the Battle of the Bands. This will be held on October 15th, at the school auditorium. The winning band gets to record at the studio down here.
2. Seniors Are Wise: Selma said there are three programs coming up and she passed out flyers for this. Healthy Living, Medications and What's in your Medication Cabinet. Selma is the contact person on this.
3. Selma said we no longer have the Safe Houses. The school said they had no one to run this. She said everyone was upset at this, some of the people there that night said they would even volunteer. They will not accept that, it has to be someone paid by the Board of Education.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. There was a thank you card for Dale from Susan Shaw.
2. There was a fundraiser at the Jefferson House on Sunday June 27th for the Hopatcong Pound animals. Susan Shaw and her vocal students raised \$ 250.00.
3. Thom passed around the Quarterly Animal Trust report.
4. Food Talk was passed out for the Board members review.
5. Ordinance 8-2010: Thom told the Board that Catherine Steinel has reviewed the work that we did and she stated that a lot of what we passed in the Ordinance was redundant. She makes some suggestions as to how we might in the future consolidate the changes and make it a little more efficient in terms of the language that we are using. The reason is, it is very costly to advertise in the newspaper. Her suggestions are well taken. Rob said the counter point to that is we were trying to go lightweight on changes to avoid attorney costs. Rob asked if Thom was looking for any action and the reply was no. In the future, the offer was, we can consult with Catherine and ask her if she has any suggestions on how we might do it more efficiently. It is just an offer, not a mandate. Rob agreed and stated if we are going to modify an ordinance, we could send it her way to have a look see and see if she has any professional suggestions in terms of tightening things up.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mutual Aid Agreement, Roxbury: Thom said he and Mariano met with ACO, Dale Sloat. In the course of the meeting it came about that the Borough has an existing agreement between Roxbury and Hopatcong to share Animal Control services. That arrangement was initiated on June 2, 2004. Under the terms of the arrangement agreed upon by both Borough's, the agreement is to renew automatically on each successive one year term unless and until one of the parties elects to terminate the adoption of the agreement. Thom said his understanding was, the agreement was dissolved by our Borough Administrator. The Resolution was made by the Borough Council.
There was a lengthy discussion on this. The suggestion is that the President and Vice President meet with the Borough Administrator to understand what the reasoning is and what the liabilities are.
A phone call was made to the Administrator and Thom, Mariano and Howard will meet on Friday, July 30th at 1:30 pm to discuss the above.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Rosie Mitchell