

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, April 22, 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, Jim Vanderhoof, Selma Reichert, Mariano Gianni, and Craig Bradley.

**ABSENT:**

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

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:** Joel asked the Board if we should discuss the first item of business now, transfer Health services to Sussex County. The Board agreed. John Eskilson, Herb Yardley, Emmrick Seabold, Ellen Phelps, Fran Baldi, James Breiten and other public were present.

Joel said, we the Board received a request from the Mayor asking us to endorse a decision of the Council to transfer health services to the County of Sussex. This was a unanimous decision. Unlike the garbage issue, this is no loss of jobs involved. To the contrary, it seems likely that the job positions within the Health Dept. may be better protected with this transfer than without, given the Borough's financial crisis. Joel said we need a motion to either approve or disapprove the Council's decision to transfer to the County. This is open for discussion.

- Jim said, he would like to ask the County if they would still have the foot clinic in town. Herb Yardley answered the question, no but if you want to do it yourself, if you would like to continue to do that you would have to finance that at the cost of about \$7,200.00. Jim said the seniors look forward to this. Ellen Phelps talked about the foot clinic. She said this is something that a lot of health departments did twenty or thirty years ago. Medicare was not paying for foot care so we all started foot clinics so that people could have their toenails and calluses taken care of. What happened over the years is that Medicare pays for that. It is a service that people can go to the podiatrist to get, Medicare pays for it. You guys are still footing the bill for a physician to come in, which is really expensive. For what you are paying this physician, you can load everybody in a bus and take them there to an office where it should be done. Fran added that the foot clinic does not do detailed procedures. Anything that needs detailed work, we have to tell them to go to a podiatrist.
- Rob went through a document that Joel, Thom and he prepared. This was based on meetings they had jointly with various individuals. This basically summarizes a number of the issues, not all but a large percentage of them. Rob said Joel touched on what is listed here as the primary issue, outsourcing local health services to the County. This is driven not by any dissatisfaction with the services currently being offered but rather the Municipal budget crisis and the savings that are projected by moving these services to the County.
- Rob talked about the financial benefits. Savings in terms of taxpayer savings and also savings to the Municipal Budget. For 2009, the savings are lower; we are half way through the year. For taxpayers saving, \$52,000 and for the Municipal Budget about \$144,000. Next year, a full year the taxpayers savings will be about \$ 138,000 and Municipal Budget about \$ 329,000. These numbers were basically provided to us by John Eskilson. Rob said the sub-committee did look at these numbers to make sure they did make sense on how these savings were calculated. Rob asked if there were questions on the financial benefits.
- Rob went on to say services will not be identical to the services we are currently providing but they do meet Minimum State Practice Standards.
- If we would move forward with this proposal, the Sanitarian, Jamie and Borough Nurse, Fran would move to the County. Rosie would stay at the Health Dept. and be responsible for Registrar functions, some permit processing and animal licensing and Dale will also stay here as the ACO. Vicki, her functions would be split between the Municipal Court and Administrative functions. Mr. Eskilson wanted to clarify something; Vicki may have to do 100% on the Administrative side of the house. There are some issues with court rules and whether or not there is a conflict of interest. Either way she will be employed.
- The County will enforce local Health ordinances that we have here in Hopatcong.

- Role of the Board of Health. Hopatcong would continue to have an Autonomous Board of Health that would continue to adopt and maintain local health ordinances. The Board would oversee the operation of health services provided by the County as well as local health services, Registrar, Animal Control and Animal Licensing.
- Local fees, all fees collected locally will remain with the Borough. For instance permit fees.
- Record storage, the County gives any of the municipalities that are in the program the option to maintain records locally. They are in the process of digitizing all the records, so eventually they plan to have remote access to records.
- Permit applications for well/septic system permits, new construction as well as alterations. Those applications will continue to be made locally, although the review and processing will occur in Newton. Someone from the County will be in Hopatcong probably one day a week on a regular basis. Jan Sloat said, the line says it is expected that permit applications will be picked up daily; I guess the word that is bothering me is expected. There's no guarantee that they will be picked up daily. Herb Yardley said we do this in Sparta, Hardyston, Ogdensburg, and Vernon. I would recommend that you call them and say, do they pick the records up, are they timely. What we would do is evaluate, it depends on the volume. If you have a lot of people coming in then we would probably say, ok we need an inspector here, we might have someone here from ten to twelve. That all depends on the volume as we go along.
- Health Services: Rob said, as I mentioned before, services that will remain here will be animal control, rabies clinic, dog licensing and registrar functions. Phil said food licensing will remain here.
- Health Educator: Ellen Phelps said the County has a Health Educator. A nurses' Health Educator and the Health Department has another person who is an educator. We do come out if a group requests; we will come out and do something special for any group. On a routine basis we do some education at senior sites and groups. We are also at the schools.
- Hearing Clinic is not offered by the County.
- Well Baby Clinic, we currently run six per year and at the County it is run monthly in Frankford Township and they are strongly considering a baby clinic in Hopatcong every other month. They would alternate between Frankford and Hopatcong; at least that is the initial thinking. Ellen said, if the clinic is held down here, any event that is held down here it is not exclusive to Hopatcong.
- Female Cancer Screening, the County runs two per year and as Ellen said, she is expected to run one in Hopatcong. As Ellen said any of these clinics, Hopatcong residents can go to any clinic in the County and visa versa.
- Male Cancer Screening, the County offers two per year, we offer one.
- Skin Cancer Clinics, the County runs two per year, we run one per year.
- SMAC Blood Screening, currently there are four per year. Ellen expects to add another to make it five, one here in Hopatcong. We currently run one per year.
- Blood Pressure Screening, we run three and the County would expect to have one every other month.
- Flu Clinic, there were three scheduled. Ellen projected the County would be doing three here in Hopatcong. Ellen said they would do just the Nutrition Site, which is an unadvertised one, just to them. Then we do two for the public, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.
- Health Educator, Joel said our Health Educator, Kristine copies all the flyers and spreads them all over town when there is any kind of a clinic, how is that going to get to somebody. Ellen said we make lots of flyers and the give them to the Sanitarian in the area and do the same thing. We put it in the Herald; they will usually do a freebee.
- Beach Water Samples, Phil said we do this as a courtesy; there is no requirement that we do this. Anybody that owns a beach is required by law to take samples. Rob said the County indicated that they would extend their lab testing rate. Rob said the enforcement would then move to the County.
- Health Department Building, Rob said his understanding, what the Mayor's intent is to leave this building available for clinics and local health services.

Rob said he has gone through the document and will now give the floor back to Joel. John Eskilson wanted to say something, he said he has been doing these transitions for about the last three years and this is the best organized and most systematic thing I've ever seen. Thank you Rob, I wish you were with us in the other communities.

Jim said we had the County here years ago and it didn't work out. Herb Yardley said, you are 100% right. Mr. Yardley said, years ago when I was building a house, the County gave me such a hard time and as a result of that I said that will never happen to anybody again and people are treated the way I want to be treated and that is fairly. That is what we do in the County. John added the County is recognized around the State as the poster child for shared services.

Joel said this proposal to transfer, it is strongly supported by our elected Council, it saves money, it protects some jobs, it is protecting our health services to a great degree. As I view it it seems to me there is way more positives than negatives.

After further discussion on this, Rob made a motion to consider the Resolution to approve the outsourcing of local health services to the Sussex County Health Dept., seconded by Craig. Joel read Resolution # 4-2009 dated April 22, 2009 in its entirety. Mariano wanted to ask Fran what she thought. Fran said that with the money problems, by September I might be able to pay for the Flu Vaccine but I won't have syringes. I also believe that we would be made part time. I honestly believe you will have more services. Mariano then asked Jamie. Jamie said he agrees with Fran. He said he had the luxury to have worked in the County and he only left for a couple of reasons that are not issues anymore. Jamie said he is as happy to go back as he is to stay.

Selma said she asked the Mayor and the Mayor said if a miracle occurred, we could bring the Board back here, it is not irreversible. Jamie wanted to express his appreciation to the Board. Several of the members have come up and asked for our input and that is appreciated. They will like working with this Board and you will enjoy working with the County as well.

Roll call, Joel, Thom, Rob, Jim, Selma, Mariano and Craig, yes. All in favor.

## **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:**

**HEALTH EDUCATOR**

**REGISTRAR REPORT**

**ANIMAL CONTROL:** Hopatcong/Stanhope

**SWAT:** Selma talked about this meeting. It was titled Asset Building. She said it was an eye opening experience and the she also said it was the largest turn out she has ever seen.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Septic Management: Phil said the County is looking at this. It would not be us, it would be the County.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Rob asked, in terms of the transition, do we need a sub-committee of the Board to work with Phil and Rosie on making sure we are looking at all the issues and procedural things that need to be looked at. Joel said can we get something from the Council in writing, a policy in terms of maintaining this area. Phil said he will put a list together and meet with Joel and whomever else. Joel said, yes we need to form a sub-committee that will meet with you (Phil) and get a punch list of items that we need to address and then we can take that to the Mayor.
2. Approve payment attorney bill for \$ 20.00. Jim made the motion, seconded by Mariano. Roll call, Joel, Thom, Rob, Jim, Selma, Mariano and Craig, yes. All in favor.
3. Resolution # 5-2009: Re-appointment Registrar (Phil) and Deputy Registrar (Rosie). Joel read the Resolution in its entirety. Rob made a motion to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mariano. Roll call, Joel, Thom, Rob, Jim, Selma, Mariano and Craig, yes. All in favor.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Rosie Mitchell