

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Health Department on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Mariano Gianni called the meeting to order, and Jim 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: Mariano Gianni, Rob Bond, Jim Vanderhoof, Thomas Forbes, Joel Servoss, and Selma Reichert. Craig Bradley, after roll call. Estelle Klein, Councilperson.

ABSENT:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Joel.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: Estelle Klein said she received a call from the Administrator of Roxbury Township. He would very much like to reopen the negotiations with the Hopatcong BOH regarding helping out with the construction of a new pound. He would like some feedback on this. Rob said the capitol expense would be the Mayor and Council's domain in terms of having to sign off on it. He asked when do we get them involved. Estelle suggested to get a figure first and present it to Roxbury. If they do not want to spend the money, it is dead in the water. If they are willing to spend that kind of money, then you can present it to the Council. Phil will come back to the Board with figures.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

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

1. Phil talked about # 3, Protective Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR). He said he talked with Jim Sorensen and The New Jersey Dept. of Health Grant Funding. Phil explained he found respirators that can be used with a battery pack; the only problem is, they have lithium batteries that last only four hours. He said he is still going back and forth on this, it is an ongoing situation. Rob asked about rechargeable batteries and Phil said they are about two hundred dollars apiece and you have to buy chargers. He will look further into this.

SANITARIAN REPORT:

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT:

HEALTH EDUCATOR:

1. Rob asked if our Health Educator attended a Municipal Alliance Meeting, the answer was yes. He then asked if she would be doing this on a regular basis, Phil said he would talk to her about this.

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: Hopatcong/Stanhope

SWAT: No report.

ALL REPORTS: Jim made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by Selma. All in favor. Mayor Hodson arrived at meeting, 8:10 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Phil passed a letter around from the Hopatcong Seniors addressed to Fran Baldi, PHN, thanking her for her presentation on Nutrition, How to Eat Better, Make Better Choices.
2. Phil talked about a letter he received from Mike Levitt. The subject was the approval of a first US vaccine for humans against the Avian Influenza Virus H5N1. Phil wanted the Board to be aware of this; he also said there was enough vaccine for six and a half million people right now. Everyone gets two doses, there are thirteen million doses prepared so far. He said there is some progress being made. Joel asked what the lag time is between doses. Phil said his understanding is they will give you one shot and he is not sure how many months later, they will give you a second one.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance # 7-2007: Mariano read the entire title: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION §251-4 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "SCHEDULE OF FEES" dated April 25, 2007. Certified

copies of all Vital Records will now be \$ 10.00. Mariano opened the meeting to the public for comment. No comment. Closed to the public. Rob made a motion to adopt Ordinance # 7-2007 as read by title, seconded by Joel. Roll call, Mariano, Rob, Jim, Tom, Joel, Craig and Selma, yes. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Animal Licensing Fees: Phil said he wanted to make the Board aware that municipalities are now allowed to increase animal dog licenses to a maximum of \$ 21.00. Now they are \$ 8.00, spayed or neutered and \$ 11.00 for a dog that is not. He said we have this ability to do this should the Board choose to do that. He also said the Animal Fund is running lean, we are operating but he is reluctant to move on some of these other things, uniforms, steel doors at the Pound and things that I need.

Joel asked, dogs that are picked up without a license in the Borough, what is the fine for that. Phil said they will pay \$ 30.00 pickup fee, they are going to pay \$ 4.00 a day at the pound. Joel said if a dog is licensed, do they get those charges, Phil said the same charges. Phil said one of things we could do is on the second or third time, raise that fee.

Mayor Hodson suggested that in July with the tax bills, we could find space to insert, to put this penalty has been raised, or the penalty is now or the dog license will now cost whatever changes you make. There would still be time to do this.

Joel said, if the dog is unlicensed, the fine should be more substantial than a licensed dog that got away. The Board agreed on this. Selma suggested that when we ask for this, that is if we decide to do it, can we put a little blip in there that the reason is to better care for the animals. Phil said that will be in the introduction to the revision. He said he will talk to the attorney with the Board's blessing.

Rob asked Phil to summarize the change or changes. Phil said he would propose to take a dog license, a neutered dog from \$ 8.00 to \$ 9.00. If the Board wishes, you can go \$ 11.00 to \$ 12.00; you have to tell me what you want to do there. And then raise the fee for multiple pickups at the Pound, incrementally and at the same time have a penalty if you don't have a license. Mariano said if the regular pickup fee is \$ 30.00; add \$ 10.00, plus the license. Phil said if you make it too steep they won't come get their cat or their dog and then what do we do with them all. We really want them to come and get them. Joel asked why the fee is so little for non-neutered animals; he said the whole purpose here is to encourage people to have their animals neutered, particularly cats that are out and about.

Rob asked for data on cats or dogs, what the split is, how many are neutered vs. not neutered. Phil said he will run a report on that and get it back to the Board.

Thom asked what the surrounding towns, what is their fee structure? Phil said he will get some information on this.

2. Mayor Hodson said he was here to talk about cats. He first asked how many cats are licensed and the answer was less than 500. He said, you and I know there are a lot more cats out there. He said someone stopped in his office to complain about his neighbors cats. Mayor Hodson said in talking with Phil and Dale, seems Dale spends a fair amount of time with the cat problem and with no money coming in, the Trust Fund is holding its own, and I don't have a solution, but there is something wrong if cats can just do whatever they want to do out there, go into a neighbor's yard and tear up the lawn furniture. There is no recourse for that. Mayor Hodson said Dale is up to his eyeballs, just trying to fit everything in, there is no more time in the day. He said, I come to you like a private citizen, what is there that can be done.

There was a long discussion on this and the Animal Trust Fund. Rob then asked what percentage of cats belong to somebody verses feral cats. Phil will ask Dale for this information.

Jim asked a question, he said we are paying Dale's salary out of Animal Control, he said he has been here for many years and this is the first he's heard of this. Phil said Dale's salary is offset by the Animal Trust.

Mariano said when we hired Dale, we had a number that they wanted to pay him, we wanted him so we upped his salary, and definitely that came out of that fund. Phil agreed and said it is to offset.

3. Goose dropping: Phil said we do not have any county parks, no municipal parks in the Borough that are goose infested. They are all private beaches; there is not even a municipal beach. He handed out an article from the Star Ledger telling how Morris County handles their geese problem. Euthanizing, egg addling, habitat alteration and nonphysical harassment are considered successful. Joel said our goose problem is less this year

then it has been in the past. He said maybe Morris County's tactics, maybe some of that is working. Estelle said Mt. Lakes hired somebody to go all around and addle the eggs; it didn't cost them that much money. Joel said, any goose eggs that you see here, they are not migratory birds. They should not be giving birth here. Those birds that are born here are staying here. Migratory birds just pass through here, they birth in Canada. So any eggs you see here should be dealt with.

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

Rosemarie Mitchell