

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 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, James Vanderhoof, Kathleen Jacobellis and Rob Bond. Melinda Conti, 7:40 pm.

ABSENT: Thomas Forbes and Joel Servoss.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Rob made a motion to approve the April minutes, seconded by Kathleen. All in favor.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC: No public.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

REPORTS:

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:

1. Phil said James Breiten, REHS started last week, so far so good. He said James likes to work with people and is highly spoken about from engineers. I think we made a good choice.
2. Kathleen commented that there were a lot of animals vaccinated at our Rabies Clinic on May 14th. She asked if that was the normal amount and Phil said yes. He added that the clinic went well.

SANITARIAN REPORT

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT

1. Rob asked about TOPOFF. Phil said TOPOFF was an emergency drill that was mandated by Congress. We worked with the County Health Dept. to set up a Plague clinic at Kittatiny Regional High School. There were about one hundred and ninety Medical Reserve Corps. We learned a lot from this, what to do and what not to do. Kathleen also participated in the TOPOFF. She said it was interesting and a good practice run.

HEALTH EDUCATOR

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL:

SWAT: No report. The next meeting will be on June 9, 2005 at 7:30 pm.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Phil handed out the State report for the Pound and talked about the response letter he had written. Will be discussed further under New Business.
2. Phil passed around an award that Fran received from Head Start for her work that she does there.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board of Health Fees: There were a few changes made to the fees.
 - Semi public well permit, from \$ 200.00 down to \$ 150.00
 - Grooming Parlors from \$ 10.00 to \$ 25.00.
 - Cat license fees, not spayed or neutered, \$10.00 and spayed or neutered, \$ 8.00.

Phil said with the Board's concurrence, I would like to establish an ordinance. We would like to do this to start January 1st. Roll call, Melinda, Mariano, Jim, Kathleen and Rob, yes. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hopatcong Pound Inspection: Phil explained that the Pound was inspected on April 29th. We received the report on May 9th. Phil said the report was kind of disheartening, last year we repaired the roof, we repaired the gutters, and we fixed the fencing. We had some other things on the burner but we held off because the status of our Animal Trust Fund. To my knowledge this is the first inspection of the facility. Estelle said the last inspection was twenty five years ago. Phil said the State setup a division of Animal Welfare and they will re-inspect in ninety days.
Phil then read his response letter he had written to the State. He commented about corrections to the violations and also talked about the recommendations. He also stated that this letter was just a draft.

He said we are searching for grants to fund this project. Estelle said she would fill out the grant for the Geraldine Dodge Foundation. Phil also said we will take a look at the Kellogg Family of Hudson Guild Farm.

There were a few changes to the letter, it will be sent out with the changes.

2. Animal Cruelty Investigation Policy: Phil said he talked to our attorney and he stated we can set our own policy as what to do when we come across this and what the Health Officer's involvement may be. Rob said it would be worth seeing what other Municipalities have.
3. Resolution # 5-2005: A resolution for the refund of Female Cancer Screening fees for \$ 40.00. Phil read the resolution and Jim made a motion to pay the refund, seconded by Kathleen. Roll call, Melinda Mariano, Jim, Kathleen and Rob, yes. All in favor.
4. Resolution # 6-2005: A resolution for the refund of Female Cancer Screening fee for \$ 20.00. Phil read the resolution and Mariano made a motion to pay the refund, seconded by Melinda. Roll call, Melinda, Mariano, Jim, Kathleen and Rob, yes. All in favor.
5. Recycling, Food Establishments: Phil said the food establishments in the Borough are very fortunate because they get Municipal pick up. However, Dan Wills is finding situations where dumpsters are loaded with recycling which should be sorted out. Phil said he went out with Dan on several locations yesterday and he is warranted in his concerns. As the result of that, the recycling goes over freebee the other stuff we are paying tonnage for. Rob asked if it is a Municipal Ordinance that this falls under. Estelle said it probably is the Health Dept. Phil said the big container is supposed to have just the garbage and then they should have containers nearby for the glass, the bottles etc. But there is just one container behind most of these places and they just put everything in there. Dan has a legitimate concern. I will see how this should be dealt with diplomatically. I understand the tonnage is down on the recycling and the Borough is paying for things it should not be paying for. Jim said he thinks we should still send a letter to the businesses. Phil said he will draft one.
6. TNR (Trap Neuter Release): Phil said a lot of money is going for the neutering of cats, veterinary bills. It is an ongoing problem. This program is affecting the Animal Trust Account. It is impeding our ability to do these capital improvements to the facility. There is a program where Dale goes out, if there is a cat running he traps them and gives them their shots and tests them for feline leukemia, aids and then they put in the program, TNR and then they are adopted out. Estelle said there is an ordinance on the books in Hopatcong, that if somebody has a problem with a cat, they have to come down to the Health Dept. and personally sign a complaint. And it has to be a viable complaint. That is how we have been handling this for many years and it seemed to be working. I will grant you that the idea of TNR all the cats that you can get your hands on is marvelous, but the Animal Trust Fund is going broke. It is a great idea and I commend Dale for doing it.

Madeline asked what kind of money are we talking about to fix everything that we are talking about. Phil said we will do some work at the Pound, and we are probably looking at forty five hundred bucks before the end of next month. We are anticipating the license fees coming in and then we will have enough money in the account. We did find some money in the Municipal Budget to repair the van. However there is a whole load of recommendations. Estelle said some of these are recommendations and the State cannot make you spend money that you don't have. Rob said in terms of the violation items, you anticipate that with the licensing fees, you should be able cover all of them.

Rob asked what can be done to reduce the veterinary fees and Estelle said we should just stick to our ordinance. She then read the part where it states that the ACO shall not seize or impound any cats under 248-15C 2,3,or 4 of this Chapter unless and until a complaint has been signed and submitted to the Health Department by the complainant.

Phil said with the Board's concurrence we will enforce that, if we start to see we have problems then we will have an emergency meeting. If we get some complaints, we will tell them we are following the Ordinance. Phil asked if everyone is in agreement. Everyone agreed.

Phil added that he was tempted to tell the State that we had to end the TNR program because of the cost of the repairs to the Pound. The Board agreed that should be put in the letter and Phil will add that.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mariano, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.