

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Dennis Twyford called the meeting to order, and Barbara Herrmann 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, THE NEWS LEADER AND POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD MAINTAINED IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICES.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Dennis Twyford, Mariano Gianni, Rob Bond, Thomas Forbes, James Vanderhoof, Melinda Conti and Catherine Cokelet. Barbara Herrmann, Joan Herrmann, Dale Sloat, ACO for Hopatcong and Councilperson, Estelle Klein were also present.

ABSENT:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Rob asked a question about the March minutes. Carl made a statement; the Town has chosen to pick up all the businesses, which poses a problem. Rob said the problem is not that we are picking up garbage from the businesses and Carl said the problem is that the dumpsters do not have lids. It is more of an equipment problem. Jim made a motion to accept the March minutes, seconded by Rob.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

1. Adoption of Doodles: Dennis introduced Barbara Herrmann to the Board. Barbara is requesting to adopt Doodles, potentially dangerous dog at our Pound. Barbara passed around pictures of Doodles and said they could not ask for a more loving dog. Barbara said Doodles got along just fine with her family and her other dog. I know he has passed all the tests required by you. The animal handler said he passed the evaluation with flying colors. All he needs is a lot of love and a good home. That is what I am willing to give him. We have all worked very hard for this dog, we believe in him and I hope you all do too.

Dennis said this item is under Old Business, can we discuss this now? The Board agreed to discuss this now.

Carl said since our last meeting there have been some issues. I've talked with some Board members, Judge Bowkley and two attorneys. I got an evaluation from Pawsiively. I will pass these papers around and you will see my comments from Judge Bowkley and e-mails from the Bernstein Group. There are letters in this packet from the Clerk in Mt. Lakes who serves on the Board of Health, who notified the Police Department as required by the statute. The ACO, Dale talked with him personally and there is a letter to that effect. I even talked with the victim and asked whether this could have been the wrong identification. She did not say it was, but she said she had to choose between a picture and the dog at the pound. The other one was at the house. She said she was hysterical at the time and she was forced to make a decision.

Dale started by saying Doodles has been nothing but a good dog. He has never growled, he has never once gone for anything or anybody. In my opinion, they picked the wrong dog. I have been up at the house of the person who owns this dog and the other dog. The other dog is much more aggressive. This Doodles has no problems with anyone. In my opinion, you can never say a dog will never bite; this is one of the ones I can say it would take extraordinary means for it to happen. I also brought the dog to a person who evaluates dogs, he trains sheriffs' dogs. The dog passed with flying colors, there is no doubt in his mind he is a good dog.

Carl then said Mr. Robinson could not afford the insurance; he relinquished ownership of the dog, which makes it our dog. You either accept these documents at their value or you will have to euthanize that dog. I think we have covered what we need to cover ourselves. I hope tonight you people make a decision in favor of adopting of Doodles to this loving family here. Jim made a motion that these people adopt Doodles, seconded by Catherine. Dennis thanked everything involved. Roll call, Dennis, Mariano, Rob, Thom, Jim and Catherine, yes. Melinda, no. Joan and Barbara Herrmann thanked everyone and then left the meeting.

2. Dan Wills, eliminating plastic bags from Ordinance: Carl told the Board that we asked Dan to attend this meeting; he is the driving force behind our Ordinance. Dan said he did a couple of surveys for garbage; I presented to Carl some minor problems that we seen on the road. Some residents' use cans and some do not. Some are neat and some residents are very careless. Carl and I went through the Ordinance and it states the bags can be put out without cans, providing they are three mills thick. I brought it up to Mayor and Council and then I discussed it with Carl and he suggested that I attend a BOH meeting.

Carl said plastic is not the problem. It is the way it's used. If you put your garbage out the morning of and it is picked up, there is never a problem. If you are not getting a pick up that day, bring it back and put it out the next day. It is when they put it out on Monday for a Friday pickup. The Mayor's concern was if the cans will be an issue. On a windy day they would be blown out, is that going to be more of a problem?

Dan said right now we are on a friendly mission, if we see cans that are seventy-five pounds, we do a friendly tag. Bags, if they are really sloppy, our men are told to call their supervisors, and we knock on their door and speak to them. If you want to do a mailing to remind people to use garbage cans or plastic bags, keep them neat; we could try that approach too.

Catherine said maybe we could address those few individuals. She said if you are irresponsible about the bags, you will be irresponsible about the cans. The problem is the irresponsibility, and you don't want to punish 90% of the people in town for the 10%. Chances are when you address an issue, the people who didn't need to hear it, they read that newsletter and the people who do need to hear it aren't going to read it. The out come of this whole discussion will be to try additional education and stronger enforcement. Catherine made the motion to that effect, seconded by Jim. All in favor.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:

1. Rob asked about item # 4. Carl answered that it is Grant money for Bioterrorism, purchase of equipment, education, meetings, completion of the Apex part one and other practice activities and also to offset the cost of planning and administration of Small Pox Vaccinations. Carl we could even use the money for the Apex, have a consultant come in. He will attend a meeting on May 5th and maybe we should not meet until we come back with some feedback.
2. Melinda asked how the survey of the businesses turned out. Carl said some of the businesses were not good. I wrote a letter to all the businesses, it is a general letter. I will read it when I get to correspondence.

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT

HEALTH EDUCATOR

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: *Hopatcong/Stanhope*

ALL REPORTS: Mariano made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by Melinda.

SWAT:

1. Dennis and Melinda attended the Municipal Alliance Meeting, they were asked to distribute flyers regarding, Arm Your Children with Assets Program.. It is an interactive workshop designed to help build character assets in children to help them succeed and be less likely to be involved with drugs or other risky business. It will be a two-day workshop, part 1 on May 3, 7:00 to 8: 30 pm at the Middle School and part 2 on May 10, 7:00 to 8:30 pm.
2. Melinda explained the second part of the meeting; it was a workshop about risks and contributing factors to those risks that could be dealt with either by education or training. Looking at what in a child's life would cause them to look at drugs. It was all part of a requirement to renew a grant.
3. Next meeting will be May 25th.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Carl passed around a thank you note Hopatcong Head Start had written to Fran Baldi.
2. Carl read the letter he had written to Mayor Hodson relative to the use of the septic systems that will be abandoned as a result of the sewers.
3. Carl read the sample letter that will be sent to all Hopatcong businesses.
4. Carl read a request from Mt. Olive to use our Pound. Carl responded to Mt. Olive. Our facility at the present size would be inadequate to handle Hopatcong and Mt. Olive.
5. Carl passed around a compliance report, a surveillance report from the DEP, Water Compliance and Enforcement. Hopatcong Water System, the Rand St. well, is in compliance.
6. Carl read a letter enclosed in a packet from Sussex County Mosquito Control. It contained general mosquito control info as well as NJDEP approved handouts of products that may be used in our municipality for mosquito adulticiding purposes.
7. Food Talk: sent to all food establishment owners, courtesy of Hopatcong Health Dept.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Smoking in Borough Vehicles: The meeting of the Sub-committee will be held on May 4th at 8:00 pm in Borough Hall.
2. Doodles: Rob made a motion to revisit the Ordinance, to make changes and have the attorney clarify the Ordinance. Seconded by Thom. All in favor.
3. Richard Robinson: Carl said up until Mr. Robinson relinquished ownership of Doodles, round figures, he is up to about \$1200.00 in pound fees. Whatever we do, we will have to go through the Court. Melinda said we should ask for the full amount and if the Judge feels his circumstances are extenuating, he can knock it down. We can aim for it all and then settle for half. He led everyone on a merry chase.
4. Rob made a motion to go into Closed Session, seconded by Thom. 9:05 pm to 9:10 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve payment for Attorney fees. The bill was for a change in the Ordinance, Elimination of Plastic Bags, Jim made a motion to pay the bill, seconded by Melinda. Roll call, all in favor.
2. Roxbury/Mt.Olive agreement for Animal Control: Carl said the two towns have an agreement between each other. When the ACO in Mt. Olive is out, they asked in case of an emergency, if we would consider doing a mutual aid. Something where everybody is covered legally. This copy was signed between Mt. Olive and Roxbury. Do you feel this would be beneficial to our town? We have Dale and he is here all the time, but before I could have used the help. Jim made a motion to get involved with this agreement. Carl will have Steve Ward, Mayor and Council look at the agreement. Rob made a motion to support the Mutual Aid Agreement between Roxbury, Mt. Olive and Hopatcong, seconded by Catherine.
3. Dennis asked about the outcome of Carl's request for a prorated settlement for his sick time. Carl said he is here for twenty-three years and I was an employee that never used sick time. I have accumulated a lot of sick time. I thought it would be a reasonable request that they do a prorated amount. It would not be a million dollars but it would make me feel very good. I have seen people leave here owing time. It was brought up to the Council and was not met in favor. Steve suggested trying to raise my salary to match the new Health Officer's. That would mean a few extra dollars in my retirement. That would be very much appreciated. Dennis suggested the Board write a letter to support a raise in Carl's salary, just to let them know that we are in support of this. Dennis will write the letter and all Board members will approve.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie Mitchell