

The regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Board of Health Building on Wednesday, August 25, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. Dennis Twyford called the meeting to order, and Phil Morlock 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, James Vanderhoof, Thomas Forbes, and Kathleen Jacobellis. Councilperson, Estelle Klein

ABSENT: Melinda Conti and Rob Bond

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Mariano made a motion to approve the July minutes, seconded by Thom. All in favor.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC:

1. Estelle Klein: Estelle said Carl Seber sent a letter to Eric Bernstein, BOH Attorney, on June 24th and we have not heard a word from him. Estelle maintains there is a conflict of interest. Bernstein is the labor attorney for the Borough and there is a case pending. It has been two months and he has not responded to the letter. Dennis said we have to consider a course of action. The suggestion is that we terminate the attorney. Mariano said, if we terminate the attorney, will there be any charges back; we hired him for a one year term. Dennis asked for a motion instructing Phil contact the attorney. Jim made the motion, seconded by Mariano. All in favor.
2. Phil said he sent a letter to Tony Larice, DOP regarding the Board's autonomy. Phil said that he and Estelle went through Title 26 and sent attachments with the letter. Dennis said one way or another the said employee should have been afforded a hearing. Estelle added the hearing should be in front of the Board not Mayor and Council. Dennis said this employee did not qualify as a Civil Service employee otherwise she would have been entitled to a hearing in Trenton which she was not entitled to. In lieu of that, she should have been granted a hearing before the Board. One way or another, she was not afforded a hearing of any type before her dismissal.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

1. Jim asked about item # 8. Contaminated well on River Styx Rd. Phil said the issue is the auto body shop, R & M. The spill occurred back in 1989 and it was never cleaned up. Since then the property changed hands. The gentleman that owns the property now, applied to the State for a grant to clean it up. We sent a letter to the commissioner of DEP asking them to get involved with this and expedite this. The fear is that this contamination could move down the road, seven hundred feet to the Municipal well. If it makes it to the well we have a major problem. It is one of the largest producing wells we have.

SANTARY REPORT

BOROUGH NURSE REPORT

HEALTH EDUCATOR

REGISTRAR REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL: *Hopatcong/Stanhope.*

ALL REPORTS: Thom made a motion to accept all reports,

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Ingram Cove: Phil said members of this beach club felt that the pumping station, corner of Vale and Cove, caused the unacceptable counts for fecal coliform. Gary and I went through the file and found there is a history of high counts. We found that the counts above the pumping station in the storm drain were also unacceptable. That means this not anything new. Steve Ward wrote a letter to Ingram Cove Community Association, last sentence stating that the sewer project will reduce your beach club's historic trend of high fecal counts. Steve also invited the residents to come over to the pumping station to see what safety precautions were in there, auxiliary generator pumps to ensure that we don't have an overflow, no one responded.

2. Phil read a letter that Gary had written to an interested party about the Oakdale well. The well was tested twice and it came up with fecal coliform. Gary sent a letter that stated if it can't be corrected; the well has to be sealed. This well will probably never be brought into compliance. If it not safe for human consumption. Jim asked if there was a lock on the well and if not there should be. Phil said there is a sign on it. Phil will keep the Board apprised on this.
3. Phil read a thank you letter Dale Sloat, ACO received for helping out a resident. Dennis commented that every meeting there is something nice said about Dale and Estelle added he is the best thing to happen to this town.
4. Phil said the roof at the pound was painted and the gutters were fixed. I also talked with Dan Wills to get the weeds cut around the facility. Kathleen asked about the improvements that were talked about last month. Phil said they talked with the architect; he is drawing plans at no cost to us. Dale also received six large cat cages donated by BARKS. There is a lot going on here due to personal effort. We are moving ahead.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance 29-2004: Dennis read the ordinance by title and asked for a motion to accept the ordinance on final reading. Mariano made the motion, seconded by Thom. Roll call, all in favor.
2. Dog adoption procedures: Dennis said this item was brought up at the last meeting. The release form was passed out for members to read. There was no discussion and everyone agree the form covers pretty much everything. No changes were made.
3. Rabies Clinic Policy: There was one amendment to the policy, "No solicitation by any organization within two hundred feet of the clinic site unless there is prior approval by the administrative authority". That was to prevent a repeat situation of the last clinic. Jim suggested writing a letter in January to Chief Swanson asking for one patrolman for that certain date. Dennis said the Board will do that.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 217 Lakeside Ave.: Phil said he received a call from a resident that smelled something in the drinking water. Gary and Phil tested the water and VOC'S were found. The resident has since removed his oil tank and did not find a leak there. We since sent letters to property owners in the area and got six tests. On one result the water was contaminated.
2. Bioterrorism: Fran and Phil attended a meeting at the county. The county has a State Health Planner, she is now writing a plan for bioterrorism. Phil wanted to give the Board a brief description of what the Sate is planning to do. They are setting up five PODS (Points of Distribution). The idea is that within ten days to vaccinate everyone in this county. You need about nine hundred people in order to do this and they are now recruiting people to do this. We are now in high alert. The concern is Anthrax and Smallpox. This is because of the Republican National Convention.
Thom added the high alert will probably go on until the inauguration.
Kathleen said the schools have no plan in place if something happens while the children are in school. If there is a plan, I am the school nurse and I don't know it. She said for two years we have been working on the disaster plan and I have not seen anything in writing, we do not have anything prepared. If you are going to cover the county, who is going to cover the children while they are in school?
The suggestion was to ask John Swanson, Chief of Police who is also OEM (Officer Emergency Management). Councilperson Estelle Klein will talk with Chief Swanson.
3. Mt. Arlington Health Services: Phil said Mt. Arlington is interested in contracting with Hopatcong for health services. In order to do this we would have to hire another sanitarian and additional nurses to help Fran do what she has to do. That having been said it would cost more than the monies offered. It would not be cost effective. Thom made a motion to contact Mt. Arlington and tell we are not able to provide them services at this time, seconded by Kathleen. Roll call, all in favor.
4. Animal Licensing: Phil started by saying other towns license their dogs for the calendar year. Hopatcong licenses from June to May. The clinic for rabies is in May. In order to license, the rabies must be valid for ten months of the licensing year. The rabies clinic will then be in late October. If you wanted to change from June to January, it would be a major undertaking. The Board decided to revisit this next month.

5. Phil said the Animal Cencus in underway in the Borough. The people have ID and they go to each home, ask if there are any unlicensed animals, if so a summons will be signed against them. Phil added that it is very important to have your animal immunized. It is for the people's protection as well as the animals.
6. Phil wanted to make a statement. He said he has an excellent staff and everyone has been very cooperative. This is a good team here, small but good. Estelle added that Phil is a pleasant addition to the BOH. The Board agreed.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Rosemarie Mitchell