

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
February 13, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Mahwah, held at the Municipal Offices, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 8:00PM by President, Sydney Harris.

The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law and was followed by Roll Call:

PRESENT:           Mr. Harris  
                      Mrs. Mertz  
                      Dr. DeMaria  
                      Mr. O'Brien

ABSENT:           Mrs. DeSilva  
                      Mr. Wasson

PROFESSIONALS:  Mrs. Musella, Health Officer  
                      Mrs. Campbell, Secretary  
                      Mr. Mason, Attorney  
                      Mr. Maas, REHS

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 2018**

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2018.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the Health Activities Report for January, 2018.

Mr. Harris inquired about a non-community public water sample that came back with an unsatisfactory result. Mr. Maas said the well test indicated a high nitrate level. Secor's is closed for the season and well is being retested.

Mr. O'Brien asked if the dogs quarantined after a bite incident had been vaccinated as required. Mr. Maas responded that they were.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Activities Report for January was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Moved by Mrs. Mertz and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Health Officer's report for January, 2018.

Mrs. Mertz requested the number and breakdown of animals vaccinated at the annual clinic on January 27, 2018. Mrs. Campbell stated there were 256 participants; approximately 33 of those were from out of town. Mrs. Mertz said this was the largest census she had seen since she began volunteering at the event. Dr. DeMaria noted she had vaccinated over 280 at the first clinic she participated in. The staffers and volunteers preferred the Municipal Building over any other venue and felt the new location downstairs worked out better than using the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building. Kudos were given to the dedicated CERT and CART volunteers who did an excellent job corralling and directing humans, animals and vehicles.

Mr. O'Brien requested additional information on a complaint about one of the food establishments. Mr. Mass noted the complaint alleged direct hand contact with a ready-to-eat bagel. Mr. Maas reviewed the complaint with the owner of the establishment.

Mr. Mason inquired about a human-to-human bite incident in one of the schools that Mrs. Mertz had consulted with Mrs. Musella over. Because this type of incident is so rare, Mrs. Mertz opted to review the protocols with the Health Officer. The bite was inflicted by a student on an adult.

Dr. DeMaria asked if an animal bite victim who had been encouraged to obtain rabies prophylaxis had sought medical attention. Mrs. Musella replied 'no' but, we can only recommend prophylaxis - we cannot mandate it. Letters are sent via regular and certified mail providing information to bite victims stating the seriousness of rabies and the fact that once it develops, there is no cure.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Officer's Report for January was unanimously approved.

**BILLS**

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and, unanimously approved by all present to pay the Bills for January 2017.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

No activity.

**REPORT OF ATTORNEY**

Mr. Mason reviewed the Interlocal Agreement for Child Health Services with Waldwick and the contract for Health Officer Services with Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission and found them both to be in order.

He noted that he had also disseminated to all Members (via email) an article on pandemic response, germane to many of the issues the Board has previously addressed.

As has been his practice, Mr. Mason tries to keep abreast of trends and practices in health or medicine that the Board may wish to adopt or encourage as part of its mission. One of these trends involves partnerships of local medical professionals who team up and donate their time assisting residents in making good dietary choices. They operate with telephone 'Hot Lines' which residents can call for specific information and immediate answers to their questions. Similarly, these teams will staff local wellness clinics or community centers and offer individual and group counseling. There is a social support factor here that seems to facilitate improved outcomes.

Mr. O'Brien noted that since Medicare and Medicaid charity funding formulas have changed, there is now a financial incentive for hospitals to reduce return visits by patients with specific ailments i.e. heart disease, diabetes, etc.

Under the "DISRIP" program [Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment] hospitals are also reimbursed for providing free services to the community that may help reduce illness and improve clinical outcomes in the community.

Mr. Harris asked Mrs. Musella how we might cultivate a local team. Mrs. Musella feels that the first step would be to survey what is already available so as not to introduce duplicative services. Mr. Harris suggested that outreach could be made to the Valley Health Center or Hackensack Medical Center to see what free programs they are offering.

Mr. Mason believes a local health initiative would be valuable to patients and doctors alike. Patients are often spirited in and out of medical appointments without the time to even formulate their questions. Medical providers may overestimate a patient's ability to follow through on medical directives. Further, those providers may not see the patient for another year. Medical providers could make a "Mahwah Health Initiative" flyer available to their patients who may benefit from specific programs - regardless of whom is hosting them.

Additional discussion ensued regarding employer sponsored programs, the many programs offered by the Mahwah Library and those offered or sponsored by other local Boards of Health. Mr. Harris asked Mr. Mason to send him the article that piqued his interest in this program. He then directed the Members to consider options to discuss further at next month's meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs. Mertz advised that she has found a potential candidate for the vacant Board seat. He is a Mahwah resident who owns a restaurant and holds Food Manager Certification. His wife is a teacher in the district and she feels he would make an excellent addition. He plans to attend our March meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed to by all present, the Board entered Executive Session at 8:40pm to discuss pending legislation.

On a motion by Dr. DeMaria, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and agreed to by all present, the Board returned to Regular Session at 8:45pm.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:45pm by Mr. O'Brien, with a second by Mrs. Mertz and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2018, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell  
Secretary