

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2014**

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 7:30 PM by President, Sydney Harris.

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

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

ABSENT: Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. Wasson

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

CERTIFICATION AND OATH OF ALLEGIANCE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Mrs. Campbell certified the appointment of Mr. Adam O'Brien to the Board of Health via Council Resolution #094-14. Mr. Mason administered the Oath, and Mr. Harris and the seated Members offered their congratulations.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. LaMontagne and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 11, 2014.

HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. Mertz and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria to approve the Health Activities Report for March 2014.

Mr. Mason inquired as to the specifics of an illness investigation noted on page 6. Mrs. Homler explained that a patron of one of our food establishments was hospitalized after eating a fish entrée. A second victim contacted the restaurant complaining of illness after eating the same dish. The owner of the establishment contacted us for guidance, and Mrs. Homler began an outbreak investigation. To the best of our knowledge, the second victim was neither hospitalized nor tested, but his symptoms were consistent with scombroid toxin poisoning. Because the State Lab does not have the capability to test for histamine, the Food and Drug Administration was enlisted to conduct a trace-back of the product and collect samples for analysis.

The samples tested negative, but this did not definitively preclude the presence of histamine in those portions of the fish consumed by the patrons who became ill. To be on the safe side, the establishment owner discarded all the product from that shipment. While the establishment did nothing wrong per se, changes in storage and handling of the types of fish known to be histamine producers (i.e. sardines, yellow fin tuna, shad, mahi mahi etc.) were instituted.

Mr. Harris asked from where the suspect fish originated. Mrs. Homler stated it came from Indonesia via California. Mr. Harris noted that recent media reports are cautioning consumers to verify the source and point of origin of purchased tilapia; as a "farmed" product, one needs to be concerned with what they are being fed as well as how it is being handled.

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

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Moved by Mr. LaMontagne and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the Health Officer's Report for March.

Mrs. Musella noted that this was the first year she was responsible to submit a Local Health Report (LHR) to the State for Mahwah.

The last time the State required this data to be filed was in 2006. Statistics reported include most of the items detailed in our monthly Health Activities Report.

Dr. DeMaria requested additional information regarding 2 dogs At-Large. Mrs. Homler had received a complaint about two Boxers that were escaping their home in a condominium community and threatening other residents.

Mrs. Homler met with Carol Tyler [Tyco Animal Control] and the owner of the dogs at Police Headquarters. They explained to the owner that there could be significant legal consequences if her dogs manage to escape again. This information was then confirmed to the owner in a formal follow-up letter. Mrs. Homler was made aware that the dog owner rents the unit she is living in and, her landlord threatened eviction if it happens again.

Mrs. Musella noted that in conjunction with HARP we had attempted to conduct a wellness education program for employees. Approvals were long in coming and left us short on time to promote a "Lunch and Learn" program in the employee cafeteria. We hope to reschedule the speaker we had engaged to discuss nutrition and the importance of a healthy weight.

Regarding Mr. Morris' pig, Dr. DeMaria reported that she was unable to find any legal distinction between commercial swine and pot-bellied pigs, the latter of which can also grow to be quite large depending on their diet.

Mr. LaMontagne wished to affirm the Board's conclusion that Mr. Morris' animal was a pet; and, therefore, we would not be licensing it as livestock. Mr. Mason delineated the statutory animal licensing responsibilities of the Council versus those of the Board of Health. He then advised that as a governing body, a Resolution should be passed to memorialize our official position.

Mr. Harris called for a motion to accept Mr. Morris' assertion that his pot-bellied pig is a family pet and, as such, it falls outside the Board of Health's definition of livestock for the purpose of licensing. Further, that the Board of Health recommends Council license this animal as a family pet.

Motion: Dr. DeMaria
Second: Mr. LaMontagne

Roll Call: 5 Ayes

Motion carried.

Mr. Harris instructed Mr. Mason to follow up with the Township Attorney, Brian Chewkaskie, regarding this determination.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mr. LaMontagne and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed by all present to pay the bills for March.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mr. LaMontagne reported no additional communication with the mayor subsequent to the February Budget Hearing, but reiterated his appreciation to the staff and Members for their efforts in obtaining the additional funding.

Mr. Harris advised that he had contacted Mr. Ralph Grotheer, who held the part-time position before the funding was cut. Mr. Grotheer indicated his desire to be reinstated. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Harris received a call from Mrs. Musella indicating that North West Bergen Regional Health Commission would like an opportunity to bid on supplying inspection services.

Mr. Harris advised the Board that he asked Mrs. Musella to obtain a quote from NWBRHC to present to the Board at which time all available options will be reviewed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

The substance of Mr. Mason's report was covered during discussion of the Health Officer's Report and summarized in his confidential memorandum to the Board dated 4/4/14.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Homler wished to commend Tyco Animal Control Services, and specifically Carol Tyler, for her efforts in locating "Chief" - the horse that went missing from one of the farms in Mahwah. Tyco dedicated many man-hours to the search, and Mrs. Tyler personally organized many volunteers and tapped her extensive network of personal and professional acquaintances to assist in the effort which had a good ending.

Mr. Harris thanked Mrs. Homler for sharing her thoughts and agreed that Tyco was a valuable resource. They have assisted the CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] volunteers in the design and implementation of CART [Community Animal Response Team] protocols.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Harris welcomed the Mahwah High School students in attendance (William Strauch, Jack Xiong and Alex Anesetti); all sophomores working on a History project regarding the Township.

In response to their query, Mrs. Homler provided the protocols following exposure to a bat by a sleeping person.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to close the meeting was made at 8:20pm by Mr. LaMontagne, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for **May 13, 2014** at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary