

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
October 14, 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
 Mrs. DeSilva

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria
 Mr. O'Brien
 Mr. Wasson

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2014.

Mr. Harris inquired as to the status of violations at a horse farm on Ramapo Valley Road. Mr. Maas indicated that the owner of the farm has obtained approval for work to be done on the barn, and permits should be issued shortly by the Building Department. Animal Control Officer, Carol Tyler, has made several visits to the property and is documenting progress on the abatement of all violations. Both of the inspectors will visit the property with Mrs. Tyler in the coming weeks. Mrs. Musella also noted that the owner plans to relocate some of the animals to an out-of-state farm.

Mr. Harris asked if any follow-up had taken place with Mrs. Tyler regarding the differing approaches in dealing with feral cat colonies

discussed at our last meeting. Mrs. Musella had not discussed the issue specifically with Mrs. Tyler but knew she was not an advocate of Trap-Neuter-Release.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Minutes of the Regular meeting of September 9, 2014, were unanimously approved.

SEPTEMBER HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mrs. Mertz and, seconded by Mr. LaMontagne to approve the Health Activities Report for September 2014.

Mrs. DeSilva expressed surprise that CVS not only refused to abate a simple maintenance violation and was issued a summons, but then also earned a Bench Warrant for missing their court hearing.

Mr. Maas confirmed that the outdoor dumpster area has since been cleaned up and that Mrs. Homler wrote the summonses to the Corporation. Mr. Mason noted that Bench Warrants are usually executed when an officer of the court arrests someone - which is not likely to happen in this case. Moving forward, he said it is preferable to address the issue locally by writing the summons in the name of the store manager.

Mrs. Musella and Mr. Maas were both of the belief that we were not able to write summonses to an employee of a corporation but only to the owner. Mr. Mason clarified that Corporations and other business entities must designate authorized representatives at the local level, and we can hold those persons to account for violations.

Mrs. Musella noted that Mrs. Homler had written this particular summons, and she will confer with her to determine exactly how it was written and how best to address this circumstance in the future.

Mrs. DeSilva inquired if additional staff at Mr. Kold Kuts had obtained Food Manager certification. Mrs. Campbell believed that the cook had taken a Food Handler course, but no one else from the establishment had been documented as a certified Food Manager. Mr. Maas affirmed that due to their Risk Level 3 rating and the initial issues we had here, an additional Food Manager is a must.

Mrs. Mertz was concerned that a lead abatement violation on Ramapo Valley Road has still not been resolved and requested an update. Mrs. Musella advised that a contractor had been hired, and an estimate has been submitted so progress is being made.

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

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the Health Officer's Report for September.

Mr. Harris inquired about several conversations Mrs. Musella had with Carol Tyler (Tyco Animal Control) about relocating a Potentially Dangerous dog to Mahwah. A Mahwah resident wanted to adopt a particular dog from a Wayne shelter that had a history of bites. The final resolve was to prohibit the resident from bringing the dog into Mahwah.

Mrs. DeSilva asked how we were apprised of the pending adoption in time to prevent it. Mrs. Musella responded that Mrs. Tyler has many contacts. Mrs. Campbell noted that when Bergen County provided our animal control services they always reported to us when a Mahwah resident adopted an animal from their shelter.

Mr. LaMontagne asked for clarification on bite and quarantine protocols when both victim and dog live out of state. Mrs. Musella stated that the medical report should go to the town where the person resides. That jurisdiction would then notify the Health authority in the municipality where the biting animal resides and have them quarantine the animal.

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

BILLS - SEPTEMBER

Moved by Mr. LaMontagne and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz and, unanimously agreed by all present to pay the bills for September.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No Activity.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

No Activity.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason reported that he had reviewed a fowl licensing quandary which had presented to the Department. After reviewing our ordinance he concluded that the owner of the fowl has primary responsibility for licensing their flock [regardless of who owns the property where said flock is habituated]. The owner of the property is responsible for maintaining the physical condition of the property within Code. A memorandum detailing this was provided to the staff.

Mrs. Campbell advised that an abatement notice had been issued to the farm at 1010 Ramapo Valley Road giving them until October 16th to license fowl in two locations. A representative of the owner came into the Health Department today and picked up two Commercial Fowl licenses; we are hoping the issue will be resolved shortly.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Referring to a memo in the Board packet, Mrs. Campbell made note of a health education program on pedestrian safety being offered by HARP at Norfolk Village Community Center on November 5th from 10am to 11am.

Mrs. Musella advised that our annual Flu Clinic will take place on Friday, October 17th. Mrs. DeSilva offered her assistance which was gratefully accepted. Mrs. Campbell stated that the clinic will begin at 1:30pm and that our pre-registration numbers are on par with last year's. As in the past, municipal employees and first responders were invited to come at 3:00pm to obtain a vaccine on a first-come, first-served basis until the vaccine supply was exhausted.

Mr. Harris made note of prior discussions by this body on raising awareness of the activities of the Department and the role of the local Board of Health. He had come across a trade article that might be instrumental in that regard, and asked Mrs. Campbell to reproduce and distribute it to the Members. The article detailed the value of web-based social media in raising public awareness and acceptance of a San Diego water utility's pro-conservation activities. It encouraged companies to be proactive and use those platforms to their advantage as they likely have a presence on the web whether they are directing that presence or not. Mrs. Campbell will scan and email the article to the Members.

Mrs. Musella noted the media attention on Ebola and Entero viruses in the United States has put Public Health back on the national radar. She recited the axiom "When nothing happens, then Public Health is working". With active cases of Ebola and Entero virus in the U.S. it is clear that something in Public Health [policy/protocol] went awry, and all agencies involved are working hard to correct that.

Mrs. Musella said that a link has been placed on Mahwah's website directing visitors to the most current information and protocols on Ebola and Entero viruses. The State Department of Health has also set up a hotline to answer the public's questions and concerns. Currently there are no suspect Ebola cases in New Jersey.

Mr. LaMontagne inquired as to the Department's role if a case were to present in Mahwah. Mrs. Musella explained that we would be responsible to isolate and quarantine the Ebola patient's contacts. Those under quarantine would be responsible to provide us with temperature readings twice daily, and we would be responsible to reach out to anyone not fulfilling their reporting requirement.

Mr. Harris asked if we would be supplied with protective gear. Mrs. Musella did not believe so because we would be dealing with the contacts of a patient with an active Ebola infection, not the patient him/herself. Mrs. Mertz asked how we would manage non-compliant contacts. Mrs. Musella responded that New Jersey's Health Commissioner, Mary O'Dowd, declared Ebola quarantines mandatory right after [a Princeton physician/NBC News medical advisor] was seen violating the voluntary quarantine she agreed to. Mrs. Musella stated the police would enforce the quarantine.

Mrs. Mertz is concerned for the school population and staff. They are not notified when a communicable disease is diagnosed within the school population - but parents send sick children to school all the time. She feels there needs to be a better balance between the individual right to privacy and the right of the general population to know and protect itself. Mrs. DeSilva understood that Entero virus testing was not even being done. Mrs. Musella confirmed this was true

because Entero viruses are extremely common, and the CDC has the only lab capable of typing Entero D68. Also, the CDC is only testing specimens submitted by State Health Departments.

Mrs. Musella continued that regardless of virus type, the clinical management of the disease doesn't change. The best we can do is educate and stress the importance of keeping sick children home, good hygiene and effective housekeeping and hand-washing techniques.

Resolution 2014-10 - Appointment of Physician for Influenza Clinic

Motion: Mrs. DeSilva

Second: Mrs. Mertz

Roll Call: 4 Ayes, 3 Absent

Motion carries.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to close the meeting was made at 8:15pm by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. LaMontagne and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for **November 18, 2014** at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary