

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
December 8, 2015**

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 First Vice-President, Robert LaMontagne.

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

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

ABSENT: Mr. Harris

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2015.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mr. O'Brien and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria to approve the Health Activities Report for November.

Mrs. Mertz requested additional information on the raccoon and cat sent for rabies testing. Mrs. Homler explained that a veterinary tech was bitten by a cat she was holding during a medical procedure. The cat died the next day. The raccoon was in an altercation with an

immunized dog and died of its injuries. Testing was indicated in both instances. The raccoon was positive; the cat was negative for rabies.

Mr. Wasson requested details on a terrorism awareness program attended by Mrs. Homler. Mrs. Homler found the seminar to be very informative. It covered history of past episodes, lessons learned, and proper methodology. Attendees were also coached of things to be aware of during regular inspections: chemicals, unlabeled jars, etc.

Mrs. DeSilva noted that the Shorco property was sold and asked about the status of the environmental contamination issues there. Mrs. Homler responded that the property had been bought by Bolla, a New York firm, who would demolish the existing structure and build a new gas station and convenience store with a deli department. The 'pump and treat' system has done its job and will now be retired as the contamination has been remediated.

Mr. Wasson commented on the widespread e.coli outbreak associated with the Chipotle food chain and asked if the source of contamination had been determined. Mr. O'Brien said no; they do not even know which menu item might be responsible.

Mrs. Musella said there are many means of transmission which makes locating the exact source difficult. E. coli can enter the food supply at the harvest or during processing by cross-contamination. Transmission occurs when the organism is ingested (either from the original food source or from the fecal matter of an infected person).

Mrs. Homler advised that the organism can exist within the plant itself; i.e. is drawn up in the roots from fertilizer and/or a contaminated water supply. Dr. DeMaria confirmed that this is the most common occurrence of e.coli in produce now; it is no longer from external contamination.

Mr. O'Brien asked about an issue with no-smoking signs at two condominiums. Mrs. Homler explained that the management companies there had signs produced and posted advising residents to contact the Health Department if people were violating no-smoking prohibitions. However, the condominiums are private property; we are not the lead agency in this situation; the condominium is. The Health Department will intervene on a resident's behalf only if the condominium association or its management company does not enforce.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. Wasson to accept the Health Officer's Report for November.

Mrs. Musella provided details about her activities on November 17, regarding research for a food establishment licensing software program. She spoke with a representative from FRA Technologies about this. (FRA had supplied a quote on the municipal animal licensing program.)

The new program keeps track of licensees, inspection histories and inspection due dates, generates licenses, etc. Mrs. Musella feels we are overdue to upgrade and automate our processes as well and so requested an additional appropriation in the 2016 Budget to that end. Mrs. DeSilva asked for the cost of the program; \$3000.00. Mr. LaMontagne opined that this was not a significant amount. Mrs. DeSilva then asked how we were currently accomplishing the work. Mr. LaMontagne indicated the work was now done manually. Mrs. Homler provided a printed screen-shot of the customer file page of the program for the Members to view.

Mr. Wasson asked Mrs. Musella if she felt she was adequately prepared to argue the merits of the additional expense and further, was it a one-time expense. Mrs. Musella said she felt well prepared to make our case and that we would incur a yearly software maintenance expense after installation.

Dr. DeMaria asked if we would be able to access the program remotely. Mrs. Musella did not believe so; further the inspectors do not have the laptops required for that capability.

Mr. LaMontagne then inquired as to the status of the proposed animal licensing software. Mrs. Homler stated that the Clerk called the current software vendor (Munidex) who confirmed not only that "Read-Only" format was available to share with other Departments, but that many functions in the current system were not being utilized. It appears likely they will forego an upgrade to new software. Mrs. DeSilva asked if Mrs. Homler was satisfied that our goal - to independently access the information we needed- would still be met. Mrs. Homler said yes.

Mrs. Homler said the Clerk assured her she is trying very hard to get her licensing application posted online for use by the residents prior to the rabies vaccine clinic. The clinic will be held on the main floor of the Municipal Building on Saturday, January 30th from 10:00am until 12:00pm. The Clerk plans to staff her office to take license applications the same day.

Discussion ensued as to the hours of the clinic. Mrs. Homler and Mr. O'Brien recalled going a full three hours at the last clinic and Mrs. DeSilva did not believe it could be accomplished in two hours. Mrs. Musella suggested 10:00am until 1:00pm should be adequate.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously agreed by all present to pay the bills for November.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No activity.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Activities for the improved animal licensing program initiative lead by Mr. LaMontagne were covered during the Health Officer's Report.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason spoke with the Director of Operations for Potomac Homes (now Memory Care Living (Kari Priveet) as there are still outstanding violations in food safety certification at this establishment. Ms. Priveet advised Mr. Mason that the facility manager took the Manager's test a second time and is awaiting the results.

Mrs. Mertz asked if this meets our requirements. Mrs. Homler responded that there are two certified food handlers on premises. If the facility manager passes his [eight-hour] course the will be compliant. Mrs. Homler further stated that we have several people in the process of retaking tests. The Food Manager's course is very challenging to begin with, and disparate native languages and reading levels of those taking it only exacerbates the difficulty.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-09: Appointment of Veterinarian for 2016 Rabies Clinic

Motion: Mrs. DeSilva
Second: Mrs. Mertz

Roll Call: 4 Ayes, 1 Abstention (Dr. DeMaria)
Motion carries.

Resolution 2015-10: Appointment of 2016 Board of Health Attorney

Motion: Dr. DeMaria
Second: Mr. O'Brien

Roll Call: 5 Ayes
Motion carries.

Resolution 2015-11: 2016 Meeting Dates

Motion: Mrs. DeSilva
Second: Mr. Wasson

Roll Call: 5 Ayes
Motion carries.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to close the meeting was made at 8:25pm by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The Board's annual Re-Organizational Meeting is scheduled for **January 13, 2016** at 7:30pm and will be followed by the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary