

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

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
 Mrs. Mertz (7:50PM)
 Mr. O'Brien
 Dr. DeMaria
 Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. LaMontagne
 Mr. Wasson

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mr. O'Brien and, seconded by Mr. Wasson and unanimously agreed by all present to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2016.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria to approve the Health Activities Report for October.

Mrs. DeSilva requested additional information on a sewer odor complaint on Fardale Avenue. She remembered this issue was addressed several years ago and asked if a cause had ever been determined.

Mrs. Homler explained that odors emanate from the point where the Township-owned sewer line on Fardale Avenue converges with the Bergen County Utilities Authority line on Chapel Road. There is a pump station at Continental Soldiers Park and, it activates on a timer. When the pump fires up, there is a rush of sewage moving forcefully down toward the connection point with the BCUA line. At the point where the lines connect, gas is released and adversely affects several homes on Chapel Road. The odors also affect George Washington School because of "breathability" issues. [Manhole covers allow the system to 'breathe in' oxygen for proper operation. This also permits the release of gases.]

Resident complaints triggered a meeting with the principal players [Administration, Plumbing, Board of Education, Health, Water/Sewer, BCUA, DPW and Boswell Engineering]. Boswell Engineering visited the site and came up with some recommendations. Boswell then met with the schools and with residents separately. Carbon filters will be installed on the manhole covers on Fardale Avenue, and they will also install sewer vents on Chapel Road. The cost of the items and installation will be borne by BCUA. Boswell has appointed one engineer, Giselle Diaz, as the point person to handle resident complaints.

Mr. Harris opined this was not a solution he would have endorsed because it involves continuous maintenance. He worried who was going to go in and replace the filters when they were spent. Mrs. Homler said the Mayor had the same concern. Mr. Harris said it would have been a better solution to install an available piece of equipment that aerates the line as the sewage moves through it.

Mrs. DeSilva inquired if a response to the maintenance question was received. Mrs. Homler said the Mayor was adamant that Mahwah was not going to be responsible, and BCUA finally agreed they would be doing the maintenance.

Mrs. DeSilva then asked what the expected life of the filters would be. Mr. Harris explained that a gas analysis would have to be performed to make a reasonable estimate, and he did not foresee BCUA spending the roughly \$2,000 that analysis would cost.

Mrs. Homler then added that a jockey pump was going to be installed at Continental Soldiers Park. These pumps are used to push smaller amounts of sewage through the system when a pre-set threshold is reached. In this manner, the big rush of escaping gas when the station pump activates is alleviated.

Mr. Wasson requested the time-frame for nail salon inspections; he was concerned that only one had been performed in 2016.

Mrs. Homler explained that we do not have a local ordinance mandating these inspections, although some towns (i.e. Paramus) do. Last year we asked Mr. Grotheer to inspect our salons using Paramus' code as his guideline. The State Board of Cosmetology licenses and is responsible for inspecting salons and enforcing the State Code.

Mr. Harris asked Mrs. Musella to confirm his observation that the number of animal bites has increased substantially over the years. Mrs. Musella believed this was due in part to better reporting. Mrs. Homler added that incidents occur at County facilities within Mahwah (such as Darlington Park or Ramapo Reservation) which are reported to us. Every bite investigation does not end up in a quarantine; many are referred to other jurisdictions.

Mr. Harris was concerned that once again a significant quantity of food had to be destroyed including raw chicken. Mrs. Homler confirmed that Mr. Maas performed inspections at one of the schools and at Seiko cafeteria which resulted in food destruction. The more serious of the two was Seiko. Temperature abuse of food there was due to faulty equipment, but there were other issues as well which earned them a Conditional rating.

Lastly, Mr. Harris requested additional information regarding the many summonses issued to Nonna's Pizza and Restaurant and asked if it was under new ownership. Mrs. Homler responded that the owner has been there many years; the violations were discovered in the course of doing a pre-operational inspection on an adjacent establishment. She issued six summonses for problems within the establishment; Mr. Maas issued two more for outdoor issues with the grease receptacle.

Mrs. Homler circulated pictures of the more serious problems she encountered at Nonna's. Mr. LaMontagne asked Mrs. Homler if this owner had been called in for a hearing. Mrs. Homler responded yes. She added that roughly ninety percent of the problems have been resolved: repairs were made and housekeeping issues were addressed. Employees have been scheduled to take food safety courses and, until then employees from his Paramus location who do hold valid certifications will be scheduled to work in Mahwah.

Mr. Wasson asked about the conditions in his Paramus store. Mrs. Homler said it was a new facility, and she was not aware of any problems there. Mr. O'Brien was aware that one of the Mahwah restaurant employees had passed away recently and that may have played a part in the problem.

Mr. LaMontagne inquired about the summons issued to Nagoya for food handling certification as we had directly addressed this with him before. Mrs. Homler noted that while Mr. You and another employee have Food Manager certification, all employees in his operation who

are directly involved in the preparation or cooking of food must have valid Food Handler certifications.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Health Officer's Report for October.

Mrs. Musella advised the Members that a tentative date for the 2017 Rabies Clinic has been set for Saturday, February 4th, 2017.

Mrs. DeSilva inquired about an individual who had complained the Township was discriminating against him. Mrs. Musella responded that the individual in question was subject to a visit by Mr. Maas for a lead issue. While addressing the lead issue Mr. Maas saw evidence that the resident and/or his family were leaving food out for wild animals in violation of Township and Board of Health codes. The resident felt he was being targeted. Mrs. Musella confirmed the [inspector's observation and the notice of abatement] were valid.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mr. LaMontagne and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and, unanimously approved by all present to pay the Bills for October.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No activity.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

No activity.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason advised that he had emailed the Members that he would need to defer his report until December. He apologized that emergent situations beyond his control have come up. Mr. Harris acknowledged receipt of said communication and thanked him for the advance notice.

CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. O'Brien advised that Rutgers had responded to his request to assist with a presentation on prescription drug abuse. They encouraged him to prepare an outline which they would review and fact-check.

Mr. O'Brien will gear the presentation to the general population, and not medical professionals as was originally considered. He plans to cover several topics including common misconceptions about drug abuse versus addiction, non-narcotic pain control and empowering patients to speak with their health care providers about their treatments. Mr. O'Brien believes this last point is key; altering a patient's perception of pain control is a powerful first line of defense in combatting prescription drug addiction.

Mr. Harris asked how long the presentation would run. Mr. O'Brien can tailor a program anywhere from ten to thirty minutes. Mr. Harris suggested partnering with other entities to expand the program as an incentive to draw a larger audience. Mr. O'Brien agreed noting that in 2015, the Mahwah Municipal Alliance partnered with the police on Narcan training, and they may wish to repeat this program. He would also consider reaching out to Bergen Regional Medical Center and our Health Educator at Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission to discuss other resources.

Mr. O'Brien was gratified to learn the New Jersey medical community is at the forefront of the prescription drug abuse battle; he stated that New Jersey medical providers write fewer opioid prescriptions per 100 patients than in any other state.

Resolution 2016-12: Introduction of Swans to Bogert's Pond

Motion: Mr. Wasson
Second: Mr. LaMontagne

Roll call: 7 Ayes

Motion carries.

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Harris acknowledged Ryan Sinnaeve, a college student and Mahwah resident who was in attendance as a course requirement.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:05pm by Mr. LaMontagne, with a second by Dr. DeMaria and unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2016, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary