

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
April 10, 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
 Dr. DeMaria
 Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. Cimis
 Mr. LoFaso
 Mr. O'Brien
 Mr. Wasson

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

OATHS OF OFFICE

Administration of the Oath to Mr. LoFaso and Mr. Cimis was postponed until the May meeting.

APPROVAL OF RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Moved by Mr. O'Brien and, seconded by Mr. Cimis and, unanimously agreed by all who were present at the February 23rd Re-organizational Meeting to approve the minutes thereof.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed by all who were present at the February 23rd Regular Meeting to approve the minutes thereof.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Health Activities Report for February.

Mr. Harris inquired about a grease fire at Burger King. Mrs. Homler stated that it was significant; food was voluntarily destroyed and the establishment was closed for a time. Mr. Maas re-opened them the next day.

Mrs. DeSilva asked if the Housing and Hoarding responses listed on page 7 of the report concerned the same individual or location. Mrs. Homler responded affirmatively; she has been working with the woman who is still in the hospital. It is not likely that she will be allowed to return to the home.

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

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the February Health Officer's Report.

Dr. DeMaria requested additional information about a bobcat sighting. Mrs. Homler responded that the animal was seen in the vicinity of the Wyckoff/Mahwah border. Tyco Animal Control responded along with Mr. Maas to consult with the resident. No subsequent sightings were reported.

Mr. Harris requested the protocol for dealing with licensees who are late in applying/paying for their licenses. Mrs. Musella stated that a late fee is assessed and a second deadline established. If all requirements are not satisfied within the timeframe given, we will issue a summons.

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

APPROVAL OF MARCH HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

Mrs. DeSilva inquired about a dog that had to be tested for rabies. Mrs. Homler explained that the animal had been struck by a car and bit

the veterinary technician who was attending to it. The dog succumbed to its injuries and so, could not be observed for a ten day period after the bite. The specimen had to be sent to the lab for testing.

Mrs. DeSilva then asked if the seminar on vaping Mrs. Homler and Mr. Grotheer had attended attracted a significant audience. Mrs. Homler noted it was very well attended and she had high praise for the speaker. She further explained that the Youth Detective had reached out to us to collaborate on an educational program for parents. The police have already been called on to issue summonses against High School and Middle School students who were caught vaping on school grounds.

Mrs. DeSilva was disappointed to see that Wah Sing had been found Conditional on a recent inspection because they had remained in compliance for some time. Mrs. Homler explained that Mr. Maas performed this inspection and documented (in his written report and with photographs) the violations that had to be addressed - many of which concerned equipment and housekeeping. The owner (son of the original owners) was advised to pay the \$100 re-inspection fee and told we would be back in several days. Mr. Maas was pleased with their efforts and the result; Wah Sing is now posted Satisfactory.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Activities Report for March 2018 was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MARCH

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Health Officer's report for March 2018.

Mr. O'Brien asked which way the Ordinance Committee was leaning in regard to legislating marijuana and vape shops in the Township. Mrs. Musella believed the Council is against the sale or production of marijuana, which sentiment was confirmed by Mr. Ervin. Mr. Ervin confirmed that Council had actually introduced an ordinance prohibiting those activities on April 5th.

Mrs. Homler had learned that the Township Attorney counselled the Committee to address the issue of marijuana distinctly from vaping and e-cigarettes. She felt this was appropriate as the latter was already being retailed within the Township. Mrs. Musella believed that the new Master Plan was supposed to address vape shops.

Mr. Ervin then confirmed the new Ordinance only addressed sale and production of marijuana (not usage) because medical marijuana

is already approved in the state. He also stated that Council was considering a partial update to the Master Plan [which may or may not include the issue of vape shops] at a cost of approximately \$25,000 versus \$60,000 for a complete overhaul.

Mr. Harris asked if the Council was also opposed to vaping. Mr. Ervin responded that most of the discussions have centered on marijuana; he does not feel the public is as knowledgeable on the subject of vaping or have as strong an opinion about it compared to marijuana. Perhaps this is because many people are unaware that vaping devices can be used for street drugs as well as nicotine.

Mr. O'Brien is very concerned with the lack of regulation for the manufacture of the coils used in vaping devices. In addition to vaporizing whatever oil is placed in the unit, the coils themselves are often loaded with lead which also vaporizes and gets inhaled. There are so many unknowns with these products that most health care professionals are rightly opposed to them.

Mrs. Homler recalled regulations for tobacco sales that were introduced to prohibit certain marketing strategies i.e. gifts with purchase, and volume purchase incentives [i.e. buy two, get one free]. She feels these will eventually be applied to vaping paraphernalia as well.

Mr. Cimis noted that studies on the medical implications of deeply inhaling the extremely small particles created in the vaping process indicate there is plenty to be concerned about. He feels this point has been largely overlooked in favor of viewing vaping as a healthier alternative to traditional smoking. He feels that down the road, there will be many respiratory illnesses attributed to vaping.

Mr. Cimis also stated that there is a significant safety issue of the lithium-iron batteries in these devices exploding. Mr. O'Brien added that there have also been cases where people inhaled the coil itself due to the poor design and lack of regulation in the manufacturing of some devices.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and, unanimously approved by all present to pay the Bills for February and March.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No activity reported.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

None provided.

CORRESPONDENCE

3/12/2018 From: Nancy Mertz To: Board of Health

Letter of resignation

3/20/2018 From: Angela Musella To: Mayor LaForet

Recommending the appointment of Robert Lofaso to the Board of Health

3/20/2018 From: Angela Musella To: Mayor LaForet

Recommending the appointment of George Cimis to the Board of Health

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harris addressed the new vacancy in the office of First Vice-President by promoting Dr. DeMaria to that position from her appointment as Second-Vice President. Mr. Harris then called for a nomination to fill the vacancy of the seat of Second Vice-President.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to nominate Mrs. DeSilva for the position of Second Vice-President, which motion was seconded by Mr. LoFaso. Mrs. Campbell called for any other nominations. None being offered, she cast one vote in favor of Mrs. DeSilva as Second Vice-President.

Mr. Harris then asked for volunteers to assume the vacancies in the Standing Committees. The Members requested appointments as follows:

Mr. Cimis: Chairperson, Public Information
Mr. Wasson: Co-Chairperson, Public Information
Co-Chairperson, Sunshine Committee
Mr. LoFaso: Chairperson, Sunshine Committee
Co-chairperson, Residential Health

Mr. Harris approved all appointments.

A motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2018-07 was made by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously approved.

Resolution 2018-07: 2018 Public Health Nursing Contract

Motion: Mr. O'Brien

Second: Mr. Wasson

Roll call: 7 ayes

Motion carried.

Mr. O'Brien apprised the Members of a pastoral education program he was participating in on teen suicide prevention. In a "teach the teacher" format, the program is essentially a 1 ½ to 2 hour candid conversation to help parents and teachers recognize suicidal signs and assess risk. The program stresses the importance of establishing strong relationships with teenagers who may be at risk for committing suicide. He welcomed the opportunity to discuss the program with any staff or Member that might be interested in hosting a presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously agreed by all present the Board entered into Executive Session at 8:25pm to discuss a personnel issue.

On a motion by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Wasson and, unanimously agreed by all present, the Board returned to Regular Session and adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 8, 2018**, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary