

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
June 11, 2019

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 7:32PM by President, Sydney Harris.

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

PRESENT: Mr. Cimis
 Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. Harris
 Mr. LoFaso
 Mr. Matysiak
 Mr. Wasson

ABSENT: Dr. DeMaria

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

APPROVAL OF MAY 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Lofaso and, unanimously agreed to by all present to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2019.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2019 HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mr. LoFaso and, seconded by Mr. Cimis to approve the Health Activities Report for May 2019.

Mr. Lofaso questioned the increase of dog to human bites last month. Mrs. Musella stated that none of the incidents were serious in nature. No new vicious dogs were reported. The only vicious dog case (aka Bella) is still ongoing in court.

An inquiry was made as to the difference between a Pre-op #1 and a Pre-op #2. Mr. Maas replied as to why there might be more than one pre-op on a pool. Occasionally the first inspection is made, and not everything is ready (ex. failed electrical inspection.) An appointment would then be made for the Health Department to return for inspection once all criteria are met. The license will be handed out at that time indicating the facility is acceptable to operate.

Mr. Wasson queried the inspection at Valero. Mr. Maas replied that at the time of Mr. Grotheer's inspection, the establishment was having issues with refrigeration. It was determined that a significant quantity of food needed to be destroyed. Mr. Harris noted the Department inspects more frequently than required by the State. Mr. Wasson responded that often cultural issues are at play.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the ongoing trial of the vicious dog aka Bella. Mrs. Musella replied that testimony is to resume on June 17th with Mrs. Tyler of Tyco Animal Control expected to be questioned for a full day. The defendant has presented a plea deal which would eliminate euthanasia as an option. The Township is expected to deny this request. The Animal Control Officer, Mrs. Tyler, is adamant that this dog is not a candidate for rehabilitation.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Activities Report for May 2019, was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2019

Moved by Mr. Wasson and, seconded by Mr. Cimis to approve the Health Officer's Report for May 2019.

Mrs. DeSilva noted the number of incidents involving the feeding of wildlife. Mrs. Musella commented that much of the inspectors' time in May is dedicated to the opening of seasonal public recreational bathing facilities. Mr. Maas stated there are 28 water bodies requiring inspection including one spa, one lake and a new splash pad.

Mr. Wasson inquired as to the status of an outstanding horse license. Mrs. Musella reported that the owner is currently ill, and Tyco Animal Control is attempting to work with him to get the facility up to acceptable standards.

Mr. Harris queried the tick-borne disease. Mrs. Musella replied that discussion was had regarding Lyme disease as well as new ticks that are presenting in the United States. No outbreaks are indicated; however, new tick-borne illnesses are being reported.

Mr. Matysiak discussed Powassan virus which is a tick-borne illness with symptoms that are neurologic in nature. There is currently no cure. To date, one death and one infection have been reported in New Jersey. Mrs. Musella stated that preventative measures are the best course of action at this time.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Officer's Report for May 2019, was unanimously approved.

BILLS

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva, seconded by Mr. Matysiak and, unanimously agreed to by all present to approve the bills for May 2019.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

No reports were presented.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

(Report heard following discussion and approval of Agenda item #5)

Mr. Mason has reviewed the proposed Settlement Agreement and the Release and Indemnification Agreement that was submitted by the defendant's counsel in the Bella case. The statute provides that if Bella is determined to be a Vicious Dog, she must be euthanized. If Bella is declared Potentially Dangerous, there are mandates with regard to insurance, special handling, and special notifications the dog's owner(s) must comply with. The agreement that was proposed was quite comprehensive. In addition to the Potentially Dangerous Dog mandates it also contained stipulations in the event the dog was ever fostered out. Any foster family must be notified of the agreement on record and made aware of the risk they would assume just by harboring the dog.

Mr. Mason clarified that in order to declare a dog Vicious, there is a very high standard with a clear and convincing threshold. It is incumbent upon the municipality to prove that the incident wasn't provoked by outside circumstances.

CORRESPONDENCE

None to present.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Matysiak queried the recent Mahwah water report and the acceptable limits of PFAs. Mrs. Musella stated that the acceptable limits are 70 parts per trillion. The Township's recent report indicates Mahwah's water is under the legal limit, however, within the health advisory limits. Mr. Harris stated layers of plastics lie deep within the ocean. Most of this is a by-product of the production and consumption of the plastic products society expects and demands today. Unless we are willing to revert back to less modern conveniences, we have very little control over this situation.

Mr. Mason requested Mr. Matysiak's takeaway from the article in the Mahwah Patch. Mr. Matysiak concurred with Mr. Harris' synopsis regarding plastics and modern society and provided extensive information on PFAs. There are many categories of PFAs. Those that do not have an affinity to soil are the ones that are getting washed out and into the water system.

Mr. Cimis commented that much of what is being detected in today's water supply are contaminants from 40 - 50 years ago that are working their way into our water system as it takes decades for many of these waste products to percolate to the surface.

Mr. Cimis canvassed the Board's awareness of the current Ebola outbreak in the African nation of the Congo. He explained that there are now over 2,000 confirmed cases with a death rate of approximately 55%. The outbreak has not been widely reported due to the news blackout in that war-torn region of the world. This is the second biggest outbreak since the outbreak in the West African nations of New Guinea and Ivory Coast. He noted the unsettling fact that many Congolese civilians are arriving at our nation's borders and it is unclear how such an economically disadvantaged group has the financial means to emigrate here. Mr. Cimis likened this scenario to a "viral invasion."

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public present.

There being no further comments or discussion, Mr. Matysiak made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm, which motion was seconded by Mr. Cimis and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2019, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan

Kathryn Hagan
Secretary