

TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 20, 2012

The rescheduled 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. Spiech  
                      Mr. LaMontagne  
                      Mrs. DeSilva  
                      Mrs. Mertz

ABSENT:            Dr. DeMaria  
                      Mr. Wasson

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mrs. Spiech and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 9, 2012.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Moved by Mr. LaMontagne and, seconded by Mrs. Mertz to approve the Health Activities Report for October 2012.

Mrs. DeSilva inquired as to the nature of two emergency calls reported on page 1 of the report. Mrs. Homler responded that both calls were related to super-storm Sandy. The first involved transporting vaccine from the Municipal Building to our generator-powered refrigerator at Police Headquarters on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

The second was a meeting called by the Office of Emergency Management which convened at Police Headquarters the morning of Monday, October 29th. [The Municipal Building was closed in response to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Christie.]

Mrs. Spiech asked if our total food inspection numbers (page 4) are down since the loss of our part-time inspector. Mrs. Homler did not know the exact figures, but was confident that they were. Mrs. Musella agreed that the number of inspections has definitely been affected since Mr. Grotheer was let go. She then stated we can perform a year-in-review after December and compare actual figures.

Mrs. DeSilva requested additional information about two Conditional ratings issued at a Temporary Event. Specifically, she wanted to know if patrons of the event were aware of the rating. Mrs. Homler replied affirmatively; the vendors must display the Conditional placard prominently. She continued that despite in-depth consultations with these vendors, they did not adhere to safety procedures or requirements we established for temporary events.

Mrs. Homler continued that she sent reports of these Conditional inspections to the home Health jurisdiction of each vendor, recommending that they review food handling protocols with their respective licensees. Mr. Harris asked Mrs. Homler to name the towns they hailed from; Ridgefield Park, Woodcliff Lake and Fort Lee.

Mr. Mason inquired as to the manor of licensing. Mrs. Homler explained that our application and regulations are available online for download. The inspectors perform consults by telephone and request copies of each vendor's current license and most recent inspection placard from their home jurisdiction. Regarding this specific event, she assured Mr. Mason that there were no surprises. In addition to consults with the individual purveyors, Mr. Maas had also been in contact with the promoter, almost on a daily basis, fielding his questions and reinforcing the regulations for all participating vendors.

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

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER

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

Regarding Hepatitis A and B, Mrs. Mertz asked if the police were required to be vaccinated. Mrs. Musella answered that officers must receive Blood Borne Pathogen training, but they cannot be mandated to take a vaccine. An officer who was involved in a potential exposure was required to review the training in order to make appropriate decisions regarding his medical care.

At Mrs. DeSilva's request, Mrs. Musella provided a summary of the additional activities necessitated by the storm. In particular she noted that the Commission remained open the weekend before the storm, fielding phone calls and inquiries from residents and officials in all their jurisdictions. Cellular communication and email proved to be the most vital of tools during the power outages, and she participated in numerous conference calls with County, State and municipal officials.

Bergen County opened a shelter on Campgaw Road which she, Mr. Maas and Mrs. Homler were able to visit two weeks after the storm. They were only permitted to meet with the shelter manager, a Red Cross volunteer who had been flown in from Wisconsin. He provided them a good overview of shelter operation and protocol, but they were not permitted to view the actual shelter area or speak with clients.

Mrs. Musella was impressed with the breadth of services; children were receiving transportation to their respective schools; local County, Red Cross and OEM representatives were on hand assisting in procuring clothing and necessities for clients who were not able to gather their personal belongings before being evacuated.

Mrs. Spiech noted that as a CERT team member, she had spent a day volunteering at this shelter which was originally set up at Bergen Community College in Paramus. A failed generator and lack of heat or hot water there necessitated the move to Mahwah. The move added to the stress and confusion of an already bad situation. The first night they housed over 100 people, many of whom were victims of the Little Ferry area flooding.

Mrs. Spiech opined that the presence of West Bergen Mental Healthcare counselors the following day was particularly helpful. Many of the displaced were having a difficult time dealing with their situations and losses. The assistance the counselors provided those clients was as important as seeing to their temporal needs.

Mrs. Musella related that the shelter manager complimented the County for accommodating pets and planned to bring this model back to the Red Cross for implementation elsewhere. There were a few logistical issues that will need to be addressed for future events including providing a mechanism for laundry and obtaining sufficient quantities of food.

Mrs. Spiech explained that Red Cross protocol only permits pre-packaged foodstuffs in a shelter setting. This limits what can be provided to shelter residents. She also noted that the Red Cross requests donations of new clothing only so as to avoid the risk introducing bed bugs or lice into the shelter.

Mr. Harris provided the number and method for Members to use and share in order to sign up for Nixle alerts. These are messages sent by the police or OEM to cell phones or email accounts and were the preferred (and sometimes only) way to get information out to people without power.

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 Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously agreed by all present to pay the bills for October.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None.

#### REPORTS OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mr. LaMontagne reported that as agreed to by this body, he was waiting for the results of the current election before requesting a liaison from the Township Council. He will do this in writing shortly and report the response (if any) at our next meeting.

#### REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason reported that his activities for the month centered on reviewing our Code book and composing an Ordinance based on the revised fee schedule he had been provided. He noted that while our present Code book is substantively correct, it could stand some revision for clarity and organization.

As to the new Ordinance, he continued that each chapter of the Code was reviewed for its fee components and, based on the recommendations provided to the Board, those provisions were revised and consolidated into a new chapter, Chapter X, which will be introduced later in the Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Date: October 2012 From: NALBOH To: Board of Health Members  
Solicitation for membership with complimentary copy of their latest publication, *Oral Health Guide: Community Water Fluoridation*

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution 2012-08: Appointment of Rabies Clinic Veterinarian

Motion: Mrs. Spiech  
Second: Mrs. DeSilva

Roll Call: 5 Ayes, 2 Absent

Motion Carries.

On a motion by Mr. LaMontagne, with a second by Mrs. DeSilva it was unanimously approved by all present to waive the reading of Ordinance 12-128.

Resolution 2012-09: Ordinance No. 12-128, Chapter X on introduction

Motion: Mrs. DeSilva  
Second: Mrs. Mertz

Mr. Harris expressed his concern over how raising fees will affect the smaller businesses. He requested feedback from the staff on any complaints or objections they may receive from the licensees. He further recommended that some advance notice be given to the licensees. Alternatively, he was amenable to a cover letter sent out with the license renewals that provided an explanation of the changes being enacted and the reasons for same.

Resolution 2012-09: continued

Roll call: 5 Ayes, 2 Absent

Motion carries.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marianne Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Marianne Campbell  
Secretary