

TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2013

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 7:50 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
 Dr. DeMaria
 Mrs. Mertz

ABSENT: Mrs. DeSilva
 Mr. Wasson
 Mrs. Musella, Health Officer

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Mrs. Mertz and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 11, 2012.

Mrs. Homler wished to respond to a question raised at the December meeting regarding the animal census at Holland Hill Farm (formerly Cobblestone). She confirmed that all twenty seven horses now boarded there are new to the property. Most of the horses in residence when it was Cobblestone Farm were moved to the care of the equestrian team at William Paterson College in Wayne.

APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

Mrs. Spiech noted an unusual disparity in the number of female births as compared to male. Mrs. Campbell responded that during the past several years, we have experienced an upward trend in the percentage of female births. This is significant because the infant mortality rate of males is higher than females - a circumstance that was always mitigated by the males' historically higher birth rate.

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

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Moved by Mr. LaMontagne and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria to approve the Health Officer's Report for December.

Mrs. Spiech asked if Holland Hill Farms had removed all the manure for which they were cited. Mrs. Homler answered that all violations have been corrected including receipt of proper health certifications for all horses on the premises. The court hearing for Holland Hill Farms has been rescheduled to February 7, 2013.

In light of the severe storms in the last year and a half, Mr. LaMontagne inquired if the Department has received more mold complaints than usual. Mrs. Homler did not perceive any increase.

Mr. Harris asked if the Department had any feedback from the Town Council regarding our 2013 Budget Request. Mrs. Campbell was not aware of any from either the Council or from the Business Administrator and Mayor who review it first. Mrs. Spiech advised that Council reviews these requests during the months of January and February.

Mr. Mason requested the outcome of an emergency call that the police summoned Mrs. Homler to on December 2nd. Mrs. Homler first provided background to the case. It began in November as a "no heat" complaint lodged by concerned neighbors of an elderly resident. Upon our responding, the resident refused assistance.

The December 2nd call to the residence regarded a different family member who was the elder's caregiver. That family member was transported to a local hospital for assessment and observation.

Mr. Mason asked if any other agencies were called in and/or if Mrs. Homler was the lead in the case. Mrs. Homler responded that after performing the initial welfare check, she reached out to HARP and Adult Protective Services and was contacting them for updates.

Mrs. Homler advised that she also contacted '262-HELP' twice to no avail. [262-HELP is an agency whose mission is to provide emergency mental health assessments to Bergen County residents in crisis] The police told her they have had similarly disappointing responses from this agency.

Mr. LaMontagne wanted to know the extent of our legal responsibility in these situations. Mr. Mason explained that we evaluate the situation as a first responder and engage other agencies as needed. Mrs. Spiech asked Mrs. Homler if she worked with the Director of Human Services (Dolores Raiz) in these cases. Mrs. Homler replied yes.

Mrs. Homler then explained that HARP provided the staff with a "Home Assessment" questionnaire. When completed, it provides an overview of the resident's resources, living conditions, mental and/or health concerns and possible support networks (i.e. proximity of relatives or house of worship).

Mr. Harris inquired how many of these situations we encounter (or are called in on) each year. Mrs. Homler said the Department responds to several each year with different issues (hoarding, medical, etc.) and differing degrees of severity.

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

BILLS

Moved by Mrs. Spiech and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed by all present to pay the bills for December.

REPORT OF SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Spiech reported that she arranged to have a Mass said for Mr. Mason's brother, Scott. Mr. Mason expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Spiech and the Members for this kindness.

REPORT OF LIAISON TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mr. LaMontagne will call the Mayor's office to schedule an appointment with him this month. Mrs. Spiech suggested that we begin forwarding copies of our minutes and activity reports to the Council Members on a monthly basis. Mr. Harris agreed and directed Mrs. Campbell to see to this.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Mr. Mason reported that he is preparing a memo of recommendations on courses of action for the year 2013. He hopes to review the emergency response protocol and verify our emergency Chain of Command to ensure it is up to date. He would also like to review the Emergency Volunteer Corps database and the requirements for medical personnel.

Mr. Harris noted that CERT maintains a listing of volunteers but in the case of medical professionals insurance issues can prevent them from volunteering their services. Mr. Mason explained that in the case of a declared public health emergency, these volunteers would be working under the supervision of the Township's medical or health authority and their activities would then be covered by our insurer.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received. Mrs. Campbell distributed the copies of the 2013 meeting schedule press release and a summary report of Department activities and revenue comparing 2011 and 2012.

There being no further questions or discussion, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:20pm by Mr. LaMontagne, seconded by Mrs. Mertz and unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2013 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Campbell
Secretary