

BOARD OF HEALTH
BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MEETING, April 19, 2007

The meeting of the Board of Health was held on the above-mentioned date. Dr. Galit Sacajiu read the Board's compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

On Roll Call the following members were present: Dr. Daniel Feit, Sharon Heissenbittel, Dimitra Gebhard, Dr. Hugh Evans and Dr. Galit Sacajiu.

Absent: Howard Bader, William Kuhns, and Grace Mays, Registrar

Also present was: Sam Yanovich, Health Officer, Martha Rogalski, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Council Representative Patrick J. Rouse.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The minutes from the January 18, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously with minor corrections.

PUBLIC SESSION - Thomas Frankel from 14 Birchwood Place spoke on an owner Domini Sheets at 11 Birchwood Place who owns a dog that she cannot control. On the evening of January 8, 2007, Mr. Frankel's dog Ricky was viciously attacked by Ms. Sheets' Sharpie named Winston. Ricky was in his own backyard when Winston appeared out of nowhere and totally unprovoked, attacked Ricky. Ricky sustained three puncture wounds and was treated by a nearby animal hospital. The police was summoned and tried to capture the dog but were unable to do so. The police contacted the Bergen County Animal Shelter but the dog continued to elude them as well.

Mr. Thomas presented to the health department notarized letters from various residents in the neighborhood complaining about incidents where Ms. Sheets' dog has or almost attacked them. Mr. Thomas is here because he would like that the dog to be deemed vicious by the department and removed from the home.

Ms. Beth Lazarus also was present to also say that the dog should be deemed vicious. Pat Rouse explained to Mr. Thomas and Ms. Lazarus what the procedure would be since this case could involve potential litigation. The board of health will review all information that it was provided with which includes testimony from Mr. Thomas and Ms. Lazarus and the letters that was provided for the department. Pat continued to say that the board will go into closed session at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss the matter further.

Sam Yanovich spoke to the residents and the board. Sam informed the residents that the department did receive the letters and the following steps were taken regarding Ms. Sheets' dog. Since Tenafly contracts with the Bergen County Animal Shelter

Sam reached out to Maryellen Stout, Director who is very knowledgeable about dog behavior. Ms. Stout knows of the dog and the problems that have occurred. She will try two measures first before the dog will be removed from the house. Ms. Sheets has agreed to get the dog neutered and to have the dog muzzled. If the owner does not agree to the terms, the dog will be removed from the home. At this time, the case has been turned over to the Bergen County Animal Shelter. Sam will contact the shelter, regarding the status of what has happened since last week. The Board thanked the residents for bringing this to their attention.

CORRESPONDENCE – Mayors Fax Advisory – regarding increase to dog license fees. Legislation that authorizes municipalities to increase annual dog license fee to a maximum of \$21.00 was signed into law by Governor Corzine. Chapter 7 replaces current law, which provided for a maximum annual fee of \$7.00. This amount was insufficient and failed to recognize the animal control responsibilities each town provides. These responsibilities include the cost of operating an annual free rabies clinic, cost of the position of animal control officer and a facility to house stray animals for the statutorily required seven-day period. Smaller towns with fewer dogs to license were especially constrained by the small fee. The Mayor and Council have asked the board to make their recommendations to them as soon as possible. The board discussed this situation at length. Dr. Sacajiu read a report from Grace with the breakdown of current fees. The

board's recommendation to the Mayor and Council is to increase the annual fee (1 year) for all dog licenses to the maximum of \$18.00 for spayed/neutered dog and \$21.00 for a non-spayed/neutered dog.

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT – Sam reported on his monthly report about Pandemic Flu/Emergency Preparedness and fixed facilities within each municipality are being identified in order to facilitate mass distribution of medication to the general public in the event of a public health emergency. Fixed facilities have at least 100 persons on site and include long-term care/residential facilities, private industry, and large apartment/condo buildings. The plan allows individuals without medical licenses to distribute medications within their facility. A training program will be conducted for those designated to fill that roll. The more fixed facilities that participate in the distribution of prophylactics, the fewer people will need to go through a POD.

A point of distribution (POD) clinic exercise is being conducted by the county LINC planning team on April 24 from 10:30 – 1:00 PM. They are requesting volunteers in order to effectively test the modified clinic. A “throughput” of 2,000 people per hour is the objective. Volunteer registration forms are available.

Bergen County Medical Reserves Corps is hosting a meeting on May 24 from 7-9 PM in order to recruit volunteers who would be available to assist during public health emergencies and/or community needs. Contact information available through Health Officer.

LINCS' lists are being updated for emergency notification via e-mail. The form will be distributed to: assisted living business; daycare centers; dentists; funeral homes; hospice and home care; long term care facilities; medical suppliers; pharmacies; physician offices; and veterinarians. Retail food establishments are now being added as well in order to facilitate direct notification in the event of an emergency pertaining to food supply.

Mid-Bergen hosted two regional Pandemic Flu meetings recently in order to interface with Emergency Management officials in its eleven jurisdictions concerning finalizing Pandemic Flu planning. Unfortunately, only five out of the eleven OEM officials attended.

Planning for a Pandemic will be difficult until all key stakeholders accept the reality of an eventual global influenza event. While no one can predict when it will happen, most health experts agree that there is not doubt its eventual occurrence. It is apparent that increased public education/awareness is necessary, and all local health agencies in the county are planning education programs.

Sam also mentioned information on the West Nile Viruses (WNV). Bird testing began on April 16. Only birds from the Corvid family will be tested. The most common Corvids found in New Jersey are crows and blue jays. Only those Corvids found soon after death will be suitable for testing. Birds not submitted for testing still need to be reported however, as these sightings are crucial to enable prompt mosquito control and surveillance efforts at the local level, as they are excellent indicator of WNV in a locale.

New retail food sanitation rules are now in effect. Training on the new rules was recently held in Bergen County. Education of the food establishments rather than heavy-handed enforcement will be stressed for a prolonged period. Continued training for food handlers will be offered.

REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTOR – Martha reported on her reports for the quarter. She had 19 food inspections, all were in satisfactory condition. There were two food establishment complaints, one garbage, one mold complaint and two dog bites. All were abated.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT –

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE'S REPORT – N/A

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – Dr. Sacajiu mentioned, the Local Government Ethic Law Forms must be submitted by April 30th to the office of the Borough Clerk. Both copies must be signed with original signatures.

Dr. Sacajiu talked about a recent bill that was submitted to the department for \$45.39 from the Tenaflly Veterinary Clinic for use of their own supply of rabies vaccine. Under the contract between the Board of Health and the veterinary clinic the veterinary clinic must provide us on a monthly basis an invoice and certificates of rabies forms and in turn the department will supply the vaccine at no charge. For about a year now the veterinary clinic did not comply with the contract that is in place. The board feels that this is an unnecessary expense and a letter should be sent for denial of payment.

Martha spoke about an incident regarding mold at the Montessori School. The department received several complaints from parents. Martha inspected the facility and did find that there was mold present in one of the classrooms. The church was in the process of fixing the roof and the school was closed. The Trinity Lutheran Church did hire a consultant to test and abate the mold. Currently, Sam said that there are no standards for mold. The concern of the health department is to make sure that there is proper cleanup and removal. Martha will contact and report back to the board at it next meeting.

VOUCHERS - All vouchers have been submitted and presented to the Council. All were approved and paid as listed. There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Grace E. Mays
Registrar/Administrative Assistant

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE JUNE 21, 2007 MEETING.