

**BOARD OF HEALTH
BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MEETING, November 16, 2006**

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: Howard Bader, Dr. Daniel Feit, Sharon Heissenbuttel, William Kuhns, Dimitra Gebhard and Dr. Galit Sacajiu.

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

The Board welcomed its new member Dimitra Gebhard who read and signed the oath of office for her term on the Board.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The minutes from the September 21, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously with minor corrections.

CORRESPONDENCE – N/A

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT – Sam spoke to the board about update information on Pandemic flu. The Infection Prevention Health Care Consultants were hired to draft a pandemic flu preparedness response plan by a coalition of fourteen health agencies in the county. In order to facilitate IPHC, a copy of each municipality's public health annex has been requested. IPHC will work in three phases: They will do a comprehensive review of each health agency's gap analysis as submitted to the State health department. They will develop a generic plan to address priorities identified in the gap analysis and they will consult with each municipality in order to integrate the generic plan according to their identified needs.

As of October 17th, Sanofi Pasteur stated, that their overall influenza vaccine distribution is approximately three weeks behind last year schedule. Mid-Bergen has been notified that 100% of their full order should be shipped by November 21. A small order was placed with another distributor/manufacturer that enabled Mid-Bergen to fulfill their early season immunization program demands. Our flu clinic was held on November 13th with 416 attending. The health department will schedule a makeup clinic sometime in December.

Public Health Partnership is a coalition of Bergen County Health Officers which cosponsored the Community Health Improvement Plan, and kickoff luncheon, meets monthly in working groups. Some of their continuing work includes: maintaining and updating records for public health first responders in order to comply with state and federal orders, and to schedule local training courses as needed; promoting Medical Reserves Corp on municipal web sites, either through linkage or posting the MRC director's email. MRC is an organization made up of health care professionals who volunteer their time and services in the case of a public health emergency; identifying and reaching out to special needs populations in order to determine how to assist them in a public health emergency and to provide a safety net; and updating and submitting contact information from those physicians who practice in the municipality.

Sam informed the board about a bill that was introduced by Senator Bob Smith (D-Middlesex & Somerset) on October 23, proposes holding a binding statewide referendum by county on whether responsibility for certain municipal functions should be assumed by county government. It also repeals various sections of law concerning transfer or termination of employees of terminated local health agency.

The impact of this bill if passed will be the elimination of local public health agencies, in favor of County Health agencies. While the legislative committee is trying to afford New Jerseyans property tax relief, the resulting reduction in public health services does not seem to be the most logical answer. Especially since according to 2005 statistics, New Jersey median annual per capita expenditure was only \$14. Consolidation of certain municipal function may make sense, but health departments in NJ are already consolidated or regionalized. Local board & municipal governing bodies may adopt a resolution and/or write the legislators on the joint consolidation committee if so desire. The Board discussed the issue at hand and voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTOR – Martha review her monthly reports for September and October. For the month of September, Martha had one preoperational food establishment inspection for Axia Restaurant, one environmental complaint regarding paint being thrown into the brook and causing the water to become foamy and unpleasant. Martha contact Hazmat. At the time of inspection, there was no evidence of paint anywhere. There was one no heat complaint, which complainant stated that their apartment gets extremely cold during the night hours and their landlord will not turn on their heat until October 15th. At the time of inspection their apartment was 64 degrees. Martha advised the management of the problem. There was one food establishment complaint regarding an old dirty mattress in the parking lot of Super Shop Food Store that was not being picked up. Martha contact management. Two dog bites. All incidents were abated for the month of September.

In October there was one complaint regarding a screw/nail found in their food. At the time of inspection there was no work or loose screw/nails found around the kitchen area. There was also a Port-a-John. At time of inspection the port-a-john was properly maintained. All incidents were abated for the month of October.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT – Grace reported on her monthly reports for September and October. On December 1st all retail food establishment renewals will be sent out and in late December all pet licenses renewals will be mailed. Grace also reported that she was appointed the President of the Registrars' Association of New Jersey. This appointment will consist of approximately two executive board meetings and two general membership meetings a year. Also a president, Grace will be assigned to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities League Pension, Personnel and Elections Committee which has eight meetings a year.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE'S REPORT – No Report, but Pat did discuss the current status of the public health nurse. Right now the Mayor and Council did sign a contract with Health Awareness Regional Program (HARP) of Hackensack University and Medical Center to assist the board of health with public health in the borough. This contract will cover October 1st to December 31st of 2006. The contract is available for review of services that will be provided. The only negative impact will be there will be no public health nurse at borough hall.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS – Sam reported on Dog Canvassing re: a memo from the Administrator. The state has a program in place where animal census takers will go door to door conducting an animal census to identify unlicensed dogs. Unfortunately, the number of towns submitting a canvass report to the DHSS has steadily declined to 27 % in 2000. The statutory requirement for submitting a canvass report to the DHSS was amended in 1996 to allow the reports to be submitted either annually or biennially (every other year). Sam mentioned the liability of the program. Many towns have recruited retired citizens, volunteers or students to perform a canvas inexpensively. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the issue. The board did not come to any conclusion on how to deal with dog canvassing.

Sam and Grace completed the 2007 budget. There were some comments from the Board members regarding some of the line items. Those items were discussed in detail. The budget was approved and will be submitted to the Administrator in December.

Meeting dates for 2007 are as follows: Thursdays - January 18, April 19, June 21, September 20 and November 15.

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 JANUARY 18, 2007 MEETING.