

Meeting Minutes: Freehold Township Board of Health

May 11, 2016

Opening

1. Call to Order

The May 11, 2016, meeting of the Freehold Township Board of Health was called to order by Chairwoman Lemesevski at 6:32 PM. Board members present included: Ms. Allen, Dr. Apolito, Mr. Chudkowski, Ms. Porth, Dr. Reilly, Mrs. Weissman, and Chairwoman Lemesevski. Absent: Mr. Ammiano and Dr. Opatut. Also present: Margaret Jahn, Health Officer and Julie Kramer, Recording Secretary.

The following statement was read by Chairwoman Lemesevski: "In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, c.231, P.L. 1975, this meeting was announced by posting a notice on the bulletin board reserved for that purpose; by mailing such notice to the office of the official newspapers of the Township and by filing such notice with the Township Clerk."

2. Minute Approval –March 2016

A motion to approve the March minutes (April meeting cancelled) was offered by Dr. Apolito, seconded by Mr. Chudkowski and carried by the Board.

3. March and April 2016 Activity Reports Approval

A motion to approve the March and April 2016 Activity reports was offered by Dr. Reilly, seconded by Mrs. Weissman and carried by the Board.

4. Correspondence

Ms. Jahn discussed how she represented the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) and testified in front of the state legislators for consideration of reinstating state funding of local health departments. The state has not helped with this important effort since 2010. The burden falls entirely on funding from municipal and federal sources. Ms. Jahn stated to the board that it will help tremendously to reinstate public health priority funding. She cited, as an example, the lead abatement program investigation and enforcement, mandated by the NJSHD, costs fall squarely on the local health departments and local tax payers. The Health Officers have requested 5 million to be placed in the state's budget to help fund public health. Mr. Chudkowski asked Ms. Jahn about water testing in the schools. Ms. Jahn stated she thought it would be required in the very near future. She stated she would talk to Water/Sewer about this thought. Ms. Jahn stated that a big concern is that some scripts are being issued by physician for at risk children for venous lead, but that the family is not following up, and so the test is not completed. Ms. Jahn stated she is working to fund having a capillary draw by an onsite nurse and then follow up with the venous draw. It might help to catch at risk children quicker.

The Board voiced interest in having Ms. Jahn draft a letter for the FTBOH directed at the NJ Legislators regarding the hardship of costs to be incurred by decreasing the lead levels (action levels 15 to 10). The

board would be in favor of getting funding for this necessary increase in manpower hours that will result (lowering levels of concern from 10 to 5). The Board was for the reinstatement of Public Health Priority Funding.

Ms. Allen motioned that Ms. Jahn draft a letter for the FTBOH regarding these concerns about financial hardship, seconded by Dr. Reilly and carried by the Board.

Old Business

5. Health Initiatives Grant- Update

Dr. Reilly reported to the Board that they have made it to the third round and are one of the 10 approved grants. They got approval regardless of a lack of the “letter of support” from the Freehold Borough governing body. The site visit went very well and was well received. There is still much work to be done.

6. Evaluation of the Public Health Accreditation Program

The Board reviewed the “Initial Evaluation of the Public Health Accreditation Program”. Ms. Jahn reported that Motivators and Perceived Benefits section of the report was lacking positive results. She was concerned that the price of the process is steep and that they recently raised the rates. Since the Health Officers have not seen additional grants or funding for accreditation, the cost will fall squarely on the tax payers. Ms. Jahn stated that accreditation is an on-going process and that she will continue to be ready to complete the process should that be what is decided would be best for Freehold Township.

New Business

7. Request for Waiver: Molly Pitcher Lane – “pet chickens”

The Board reviewed the letter of request. They were concerned about neighbors’ opinions and the number of chickens being requested. They asked for this further information before making a decision.

Closing

With no further business to discuss and no public comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM was made by Dr. Apolito, seconded by Mr. Chudkowski and carried by the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Kramer
Recording Secretary