

Meeting Minutes: Freehold Township Board of Health

March 9, 2017

Regular Meeting

Opening

1) Call to Order

The March 9, 2017 regular meeting of the Freehold Township Board of Health was called to order by Chairwoman Lemesevski at 6:35 PM. Board members present included: Vice-Chairman Dr. Apolito, Dr. Reilly, Mrs. Porth, Mrs. Weissman, Dr. Opatut and Chairwoman Lemesevski. Absent: Mr. Ammiano and Ms. Allen. Also present: Margaret Jahn, Health Officer, Julie Kramer, Recording Secretary and Connie Cordero, RN, Freehold Township resident and BSN student

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."

Ms. Cordero was introduced to the Board. She explained that she is working on her BSN and that attending a meeting and writing about it is a requirement for a class she is taking. The Board welcomed Ms. Cordero.

2) Minute Approval-January 12, 2017 (no February meeting)

A motion to approve the January 12, 2017 minutes, with corrections, was offered by Mrs. Weissman, seconded by Mr. Chudkowski, and carried by the Board.

3) Activity Reports Approval – January and February 2017 & January 2017 Communicable Disease report

The Board reviewed the activity reports. Mr. Chudkowski questioned the "court appearance" regarding Pine Cone Resort. Ms. Jahn stated that there was a law suit pending regarding a drowning at this facility that happened a number of years ago. Once a drowning is reported the local health department is required to follow up and complete a report regarding the incident. Our records were subpoenaed.

A motion to approve the January and February Activity Reports was offered by Mrs. Porth, seconded by Dr. Apolito, and carried by the Board.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed the correspondence provided in the packet. Dr. Reilly asked Ms. Jahn about the Performance Evaluation letter from the NJ State Health Department. Ms. Jahn stated that the State Health Department had previously conducted audits in all health departments and had discontinued this practice some time ago. They are now revisiting this and returning to auditing. A number of years ago

Freehold Township was a beta site and had an audit. Ms. Jahn stated that the return to auditing is appropriate to verify that the statutory requirements are being met by health departments.

The Board returned to the discussion on lead and the huge increase in work hours that will be required to complete the necessary investigations. Ms. Jahn agrees that the levels should be lowered, but at the same time the lawmakers should be aware of this increase in man hours required. The Health Officer's Association has been working hard at educating representatives. They seem to finally understand this dilemma. Ms. Jahn also discussed the problem with not validating capillary draws with venous draws. It is a well-known fact that capillary draws have previously only been used for screening purposes. The new regulations will accept capillary draws as valid. This fact is concerning since investigations may be on cases that should not be investigated. Also, since VNA services are utilized in conjunction with inspectors for investigations (Public Health Nurse), she foresees contract cost skyrocketing for that agency.

Discussion

- Rabies Clinic – Ms. Jahn reported that there was a record number of re-licensing of dogs at the clinic on January 21st. It was successful and well attended. Mrs. Porth asked why there were not as many cats attending (only 10). Dr. Opatut reported that the veterinarians are consistently telling owners to keep up on shots and wellness care, but cat owners do not see a big risk when their cats are perceived as “indoor” domestic animals. So, cats tend not to be as up-to-date as dogs.
- Lead Funding – Ms. Jahn reported that the governor placed ten million dollars in the budget for help with enforcing the new lead law. Now the concern is how it will be dispersed.
- Position - Ms. Jahn discussed the possibility of adding an Epidemiologist/Health Educator position. Ms. Jahn reported that Brett Nance is almost finished with obtaining her MPH degree from Rutgers. She has been an incredible employee working on the CHA and HICMIC. She would be a good fit for the health department. The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to have her on-board.

Closing

With no further business to discuss and no public comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 was made by Dr. Apolito, seconded by Mrs. Porth and carried by the Board.

Julie Kramer

Recording Secretary