

Town of Dover
Board of Health, January 9 2006

The regular monthly meeting of the Dover Board of Health was held in Town Hall, 37 N. Sussex Street, Dover.

Board President Marie Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and announced that the meeting complies with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and has been duly advertised and posted.

Donna Cook, Board Secretary, called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marie Hoffman, Constance Sibona-Foster, Jean Cater,
Donna Cook, Carolyn Blackman, Sandra Scarneo,
Christopher Chapman

ABSENT: all present

ALSO PRESENT: Donald Costanzo, Health Officer
Frank Poolas, Alderman
Jack Delaney, Alderman

President Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the December 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

A motion to accept the minutes from the December 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was made by Donna Cook and duly seconded by Jean Cater.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Hoffman asked if there was any correspondence to discuss. The HO said no.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Health Officer (HO) distributed the summary of Health Department activities for the past year which included data from the previous month and discussed with the Board various parts of the report.

Garbage tonnage for December 2005 was 473.85 tons; down from the same month one-year ago by 13.35 tons or 2.7%.

Garbage sticker receipts for December 2005 were \$2,917.50; up from the same month one-year ago by \$150.00 or 5.4%.

The HO commented that garbage tonnage ended the year with an overall decline in tonnage from the previous year. 2005 was the 3rd straight year of tonnage declines reinforcing the argument that annual tonnage peaked in 2003 and has since moderated.

The year ended on a positive note in terms of revenues. Surprisingly, sticker receipts rose in spite of declining tonnage. The trend of rising sticker receipts has been firmly in place since 2002.

Total revenues for the department rose for a third straight year from \$108,300 in 2004 to \$120,090 in 2005 or 10%. This can be attributed principally to an increase in death certificate receipts and garbage sticker sales.

A general discussion of revenues led to comments by Carolyn Blackman regarding the health department being so busy and Jean Cater mentioning the need for part-time clerical help for the Registrar.

The subject of garbage sticker receipts led to a lengthy discussion on recycling; i.e. missed recycling, unsightly conditions, collection requirements, etc. Sandra Scarneo expressed concerns about residents that do not recycle at all.

Connie Foster stated that garden apartments need to do a better job of recycling and mentioned the unsightly garbage containment conditions at Dover Hills Apartments on First Street.

Alderman Poolas commented that other garden apartment complexes do a much better job of maintaining their premises.

Connie Foster reminded the HO that the Board of Health previously complained about Dover Hills Apartments and that the code enforcement department was making regular inspections of the property.

Sandra Scarneo remarked that if residents actually drove down First Street through the apartment complex, there would be more complaints. Since most persons avoid the complex, they do not see the messy garbage conditions.

Connie Foster felt that issues relating to garbage and rodent control such as those at Dover Hills Apartments are principally a health department function. Ms. Foster's point led to a general discussion about the roles of the code enforcement department and the health department.

Alderman Poolas stated that the Board of Health needs to look at its role regarding garbage and litter enforcement and that the Mayor expects people to go out and tackle the problems that exist.

Chris Chapman reframed the reorganization of the code enforcement and health departments, the subsequent shift in personnel, and its impact on health department operations.

Connie Foster remarked that code enforcement is able to address multiple issues when doing an inspection for garbage or property maintenance such as zoning, housing, and illegal construction. The HO stated that this was an important point and was a primary reason for the reorganization.

The HO mentioned the need for additional staff to do work and Alderman Delaney responded that other departments have expressed similar needs. However, the issue of taxes is highly restrictive in this regard. There are no major increases coming in the form of tax revenues and thus budget tightening.

Comments regarding staffing, tax revenues, and restrictive spending plans led to a general discussion of the cost of operations, pensions, shared services and additional budget cuts requested by the administrator.

President Marie Hoffman concluded the discussion with a request that the HO inform the code enforcement department about Dover Hills Apartments asking them to inspect the complex regarding the Board's concerns.

In other matters relating to garbage, Alderman Poolas raised the subject of public receptacles and their design. Alderman Poolas stated that the previously purchased receptacles were the wrong style. They are difficult to empty and accumulate litter inside the basket. Alderman Poolas plans to do an inventory of receptacle locations and further assess this issue.

Jean Cater asked the HO if it was possible to place a public receptacle on Prospect Street just before the overpass. The area is a problem spot for litter and felt that a public receptacle might reduce the littering problem. The HO will try to get a receptacle located there.

Carolyn Blackman asked about the goals for the Board of Health for 2006. Alderman Delaney asked the HO if he prepared them for the administrator. The HO responded that he did submit goals and objectives to the administrator but did not have them at the moment. The HO will provide the Board with a copy of them at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

**THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC
WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.**

No members of the general public were present.

Upon completion of the public portion of the meeting, President Marie Hoffman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion to adjourn the meeting** was made by Donna Cook and seconded by Chris Chapman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED