

**Town of Dover
Board of Health, July 12, 2004**

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.

Board Secretary Donna Cook called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marie Hoffman, Donna Cook, Constance Sibona-Foster,
Jean Cater, Christopher Chapman, Ramiro Gomez

ABSENT: Karen Vaughan

ALSO PRESENT: Alderman Ronald Camacho
Donald Costanzo, Health Officer

President Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

Jean Cater stated that she would like the minutes of the June meeting amended to reflect comments made by Constance Foster that were directed to her and were hurtful and distressing.

Constance Foster apologized to Jean Cater and stated that she did not remember having said anything that was hurtful and that she would never be disrespectful in that manner.

Constance Foster stood up to leave. Alderman Camacho asked her to stay, cool off and proceed through the meeting. However, Ms. Foster left the meeting.

The Board tabled the approval of the minutes to the June meeting until next meeting and continued with the normal order of business.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Governing Magazine to the HO dated 6/14/04; Re: Conference announcement.

2. Letter from Hope House to the HO dated 6/16/04; Re: Letter of introduction.
3. Letter from CDW-G to the HO dated 6/29/04; Re: security solution and products for computers.
4. Letter from Trius Pest Management to the HO dated 7/9; Re: rodent control services.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Health Officer (HO) distributed the monthly report to the Board for review.

Garbage tonnage for June 2004 was 530.7 tons; up from the same month one-year ago by 21.86 tons or 4%.

Garbage sticker receipts for June 2004 were \$3,279.00; up from the same month one-year ago by \$274.50 or 9%.

At last month's meeting, the Board directed the HO to draft an amendment to Chapter 113 "Animals" that sets the maximum number of dogs a resident can keep to two (2). The HO distributed copies of the draft ordinance amendment to the members of the Board.

The HO also stated that the ordinance proposal included the language of the similar Morris Township ordinance that included the maximum allowable number of dogs for any townhouse, condominium, apartment or similar multifamily living unit to two.

Since last meeting the HO reviewed dog licenses issued in Dover for the year 2003 and noted that approximately 13% of the total licenses issued were 2-dog households and 2% were 3-dog households. There were very few 4, 5, 6 or 7-dog households.

Christopher Chapman suggested that a 3 dog limit was more workable and reasonable than a 2 dog limit. Since there are very few households with more than three dogs, the 3 dog maximum limit is manageable from an enforcement perspective.

Following discussion, Marie Hoffman **made a motion to recommend to the Board of Aldermen that Chapter 113, "Animals", be amended to limit the number of dogs that a person or household or business, firm or corporation can own, keep or harbor to no more than three (3) dogs.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: Marie Hoffman NO (1)
All others AYES (4)

The motion was carried.

The HO informed the Board that the following programs were conducted over the past month:

- Adult Health Screening Program: June 3rd.

- Male Cancer Screening program on June 15th.
- Germ Busters for Kids: June 12th; North Dover School Summer Program.

Effective July 11th, the NJ Domestic Partnership Act became effective. The new law grants legal status to same sex couples over 18 and opposite sex couples over 62. The Act entitles domestic partners to certain rights and benefits that married people have such as health & retirement benefits and tax benefits.

To date, the health department has not received any “Domestic Partnership” applications.

The HO informed the Board that the past problem of sewage contaminated water leaking onto the surface of the ground at 69 Penn Avenue was resolved. It turned out to be a leak in the sewer main. The sewer main was repaired and the problem eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS:

On June 11th a sick crow was collected from the Dover Train Station. The crow died shortly afterwards and the specimen was tested for West Nile Virus (WNV) by the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS). The NJDHSS stated on June 22nd that the crow tested positive for WNV.

The positive crow is a reminder that WNV is around and that it is important for residents to eliminate standing water around their homes where mosquitoes can breed and to use insect repellents when outdoors and exposed to biting insects.

This year there have been 34 crow specimens tested by the NJDHSS statewide to date. So far, five have tested positive for WNV with the Dover specimen being the first positive crow from Morris County.

The HO stated that Wharton Borough is currently experiencing a rodent control problem spanning several private properties in the area of St. Mary’s Church. The problem was reported in the Daily Record and attracted the attention of a Dover resident on Drake Avenue near the hospital.

Maureen Armstrong, 31 Drake Avenue, complained to the HO of a rodent control problem at Drake Avenue that encompassed all of the five existing homes on the street. One house at 21 Drake Avenue is boarded up and vacant. The HO inspected the area and confirmed that a rodent problem exists and that it is compounded by the rear yard brook and the vacant house which is in poor repair.

A professional exterminator will be treating the area for rodents on Wednesday, July 14th, after which the problem should abate. The HO will report the outcome at the Boards next meeting.

Jean Cater had suggested to the HO previously that a list of inspection responsibilities for the Health Department and the Code Enforcement Department be prepared so that the Board would be better able to respond to various complaints from residents. The HO distributed to the Board a copy of the list of inspection responsibilities for their information, as requested.

The HO raised the issue of amending the fee ordinance for vital records to reflect the new Domestic Partnership Act.

Following a brief discussion, **the Board of Health introduced an ordinance amending and supplementing Chapter 401 of the Revised General Code of the Town of Dover entitled “Fees”, that regulates fees for vital statistics.**

The ordinance reads as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE TOWN OF DOVER,
COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING AND
SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 401 OF THE REVISED GENERAL CODE OF
THE TOWN OF DOVER ENTITLED “FEES”**

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has recommended several changes to Chapter 401 entitled “Fees”, said Ordinance which regulates fees for vital statistics, clinics and personal health programs within the Town of Dover; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health has requested that said Ordinance be prepared to reflect an amended fee schedule that includes **Domestic Partnership Certificates**.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Board of Health of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey that:

SECTION 1. entitled “Establishment of fees” shall be amended as follows:

A. VITAL STATISTICS:

- (1) Ten (\$10.00) Dollars for a certified copy of a Birth, Death, Marriage or Domestic Partnership Certificate.
- (2) Ten (\$10.00) Dollars for the preparation of a correction of a Birth, Death, Marriage or Domestic Partnership Certificate.
- (3) Five (\$5.00) Dollars for a certification of a Birth, Death, Marriage or Domestic Partnership Certificate or a certified copy of a correction to a vital record.

- (4) Ten (\$10.00) Dollars per five (5) year period from any person making an application for Birth, Death, Marriage or Domestic Partnership Certificate where the date of occurrence of the event is unknown. This fee shall be in addition to the fee for the copy.

SECTION 2. All Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3. If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase, or sentence is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed separable.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final publication as provided by law.

A motion to pass the above introduced ordinance on first reading was made by Marie Hoffman and duly seconded by Donna Cook.

ROLL CALL VOTE. ALL AYES; NO NAYS

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO BOARD MEMBERS WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.

Jean Cater mentioned a possible case of animal cruelty involving the keeping of two dogs on a short leash all day and in the hot sun. Ms. Cater will provide more detailed information when it becomes available.

In another matter, Jean Cater reported that paint was spilled into Munson Brook, Salem Village on July 8th. The HO replied that he was aware of the incident that resulted in the response of the Dover Police and Fire Departments, as well as Picatinny Arsenal's Haz-Mat team.

Jean Cater asked if a member of the Board of Aldermen is supposed to respond to such incidents as well. The HO replied that Aldermen do not typically respond to incidents such as this. Normally, the Police, Fire, and Health respond to spills. When incidents are serious, Haz-Mat is called in and sometimes NJ DEP.

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

Alderman Patrick Fahy was present and stated that at a recent community meeting, the issue of feral cats was brought up by a resident that lives on S. Morris Street. Mr. Fahy was not sure of the exact address of the problem but that the house was located near Welch's Luncheonette on S. Morris Street. The health department will be advised once the details are obtained.

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

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED