

Town of Dover
Board of Health, June 12, 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, Secretary, called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jean Cater, Marie Hoffman,
Constance Sibona-Foster, Donna Cook,
Carolyn Blackman

ABSENT: Sandra Scarneo, Christopher Chapman

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

President Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 2006, Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

A motion to accept the minutes from the May 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was made by Jean Cater and duly seconded by Marie Hoffman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from the NJDHSS to the HO dated 5/30/06; re: Lead Video.
2. Letter from Chilton Memorial Hospital to the HO dated 6/5/06; re: smoking cessation program.

3. Letter from the NJDHSS to the HO dated 5/31/06; re: Pandemic Flu mini-grant.

President Hoffman asked if there was any correspondence to discuss. The HO stated that the letter from the NJDHSS regarding a mini-grant for pandemic flu planning was important and that the health department would, in fact, apply for the money.

OLD BUSINESS:

The HO also distributed the summary of Health Department activities for the previous month and discussed with the Board various parts of the report. The HO explained that the monthly report included a summary of food inspection activities for the past month as requested at last month's meeting.

Garbage tonnage for May 2006 was 492.69 tons; up from the same month one-year ago by 26.5 tons or 5.7%.

Garbage sticker receipts for May 2006 were \$3,460.00; down from the same month one-year ago by \$73.50 or 2.0%.

The HO provided Connie Foster with information regarding Animal Control response to a sick skunk complaint on Sunday, April 9, 2006, as requested at last month's meeting. This led to a general discussion of animal control issues.

Jean Cater mentioned that her friend on Prospect Street had a problem with stray cats digging in her garden creating a nuisance. Ms. Cater will have her friend contact the health department to arrange for the Animal Control Officer (ACO) to attempt to trap the stray cats.

Connie Foster questioned the ACO's report referencing the keeping of goats at a residence on Prospect Street. The HO explained that they were miniature goats that the homeowner had as pets for approximately 15 years. The health department has since notified the goat owner to remove the animals.

At last month's meeting the Board requested the HO to determine if smoking tobacco was permitted in the Fireman's Parlor & Bar. The HO stated that he was told by the NJDHSS the parlor and bar were not exempt from the Smoke-Free Air Act. In a memo dated May 16th, the HO notified the Fire Chief of the current regulation. Smoking outside the town hall on town hall grounds is permissible.

The HO informed the Board that the food-handler's ordinance passed on second reading at last month's meeting was published on May 17th and is now in effect. Food-handler's courses will be held in the fall for the forthcoming licensing year.

The HO reported to the Board that on Saturday, June 3rd, the health department conducted a Cholesterol Screening Program. There were approximately 55 participants. The clinic was completed without any problems.

NEW BUSINESS:

The HO informed the Board that an annual census of dogs and cats recently started and will be conducted over the next couple of months. Zory Ryerson is doing the census.

Jean Cater asked about summonses that were issued by the HO for unlicensed dogs referenced in the monthly report. The HO explained that the summonses were unrelated to the dog & cat census and that the policy of the municipal court is to require the summoned pet owner to first license his/her dog before paying a \$15 fine.

The HO distributed to the Board a public health newsletter on the subject of Pandemic Influenza. The newsletter provided a good overview of the national strategy for pandemic influenza and offered important updates and general information on the topic.

The HO mentioned to the Board that the money appropriated for a p/t clerk will be combined with the Code Enforcement's funds for the same purpose so that we can hire one (1) p/t clerk for 24 hours per week. The health department and code enforcement department would then share the employee for 12 hours per week each.

Also, the \$20k capital improvement project for the health department was approved. Over the next several weeks a floor plan will be designed that will become the basis for a new and improved department. The project will include a larger vault for vital records, the removal an interior wall and office furnishings. The board discussed various aspects of a new floor plan.

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

Alderman Frank Poolas informed the board that Saint Clare's Hospital Dover General is willing to help pay for new public receptacles. Alderman Poolas is currently working with Luis Acevedo, Street Dept. Superintendent to estimate the number of receptacle needed throughout the town including parks and some residential areas.

The HO gave information to Alderman Poolas regarding Dover's annual Clean Communities Grant and suggested that the money be used for the purchase of public receptacles. The board proceeded with a lengthy discussion of garbage issues in the downtown area.

Jean Cater asked the HO about the status of the File of Life program. The HO stated he spoke with Cynthia Lyons, Community Outreach, who informed him they would be conducting the File of Life program.

Connie Foster mentioned that she was recently at St. Barnabas Hospital and noted a program called "Speak-Up; Help Prevent Errors in Your Care." The program is intended

to help persons get answers about their medications, healthcare safety and the importance of having an advocate assist you in navigating the healthcare system. Ms. Foster felt this was a good health education topic and suggested we consider doing a related program for our seniors. Ms. Foster also suggested a program on eye care using an ophthalmologist to speak to senior groups about eye care issues. Connie Foster stated that many persons over the age of 50 have cataracts and are, therefore, interested in this topic.

Alderman Frank Poolas informed the board that he met with various senior groups and they were in favor of the File of Life program. Also, many seniors were willing to volunteer for various programs such as recreation programs. Alderman Poolas stated that some seniors expressed an interest in having a lawyer speak about living wills.

Alderman Jack Delaney announced that Rutgers Cooperative Research offers a “family health tree” program that helps people put together family medical information that can be used to assist persons in conducting their health assessments. The program will be held on June 28th from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the Police & Fire Academy on W. Hanover Avenue. Pre-registration is required.

**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 Connie Foster and seconded by Marie Hoffman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED