

**WATCHUNG
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER-

President's Statement-

Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting has been posted and sent to the official newspapers.

ROLL CALL-

Robert Riedinger (P), William Nehls, Council Liaison (P); Harriet Stambaugh (P); Fran Ellis (P); Mary Mobus (P); George Pogosky (A); Bruce Ruck (P); John Sachariah (P); Peter Savulich (P)
Middlebrook-Kevin Sumner (P)

REORGANIZATION:

Nominations were requested for President of the Board of Health for 2010. Fran Ellis nominated Robert Riedinger, seconded by Harriet Stambaugh. There being no further nominations Mr. Riedinger was unanimously elected as President of the Board of Health

Nominations were requested for Vice President of the Board of Health for 2010. Harriet Stambaugh nominated Bruce Ruck, seconded by Bill Nehls. There being no further nominations Mr. Ruck was unanimously elected Vice President of the Board of Health.

President Riedinger appointed the following members as representatives to the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission:
William Nehls, John Sachariah with Peter Savulich as alternate.

Bill Nehls stated that it is important for us to have two voting members attending these meetings and it was suggested if one of the members cannot attend the meeting that they call the Alternate.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Fran Ellis, Harriet Stambaugh and John Sachariah were administered their Oath of Office. The Oaths were signed and will be placed on file in the Clerks office.

CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 3, 2009 MEETING

Mary Mobus moved to accept the minutes of December 3, 2009, seconded by Fran Ellis, all were in favor.

Report of Vital Statistics for :

November

Births - Male- 1 Female- 1
Deaths - Male- 2 Female- 3
Marriages- 0
Domestic Partnerships – 0
Civil Unions - 0

December

Births - Male- 0 Female- 0
Deaths- Male- 4 Female- 3
Marriages- 1
Domestic Partnerships – 0
Civil Unions - 0

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORTS FOR - November/December (Kevin Sumner)

Bruce asked for an explanation of what a riser is for a septic system – it is a tube that raises the opening for the system to the surface and a cover is put on it so the owner does not have to excavate each time he has to pump out the system.

Bruce also questioned an update on the soil removal – has anything been done? It is still on the homeowners' property. It has not gone to court yet. The town cannot do anything – it is in the hands of the State DEP and the last Kevin heard was they were waiting for final test results so they can classify it for final disposal at an approved site. The responsible party (contractor) would have to remove the soil but they are appealing a court order.

Bruce questioned an old oil spill by the lake – there is still a reclamation pit there for monitoring. Kevin said he will check into this.

Kevin distributed a report on Lyme disease cases for the last five years (2005-2009). The number of confirmed cases are relatively low. There have been many reported but most have not been confirmed. They could be false lab reports, or any number of things.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO MIDDLE BROOK – Bill Nehls

Bill reported that the reorganization meeting will be held On Monday, February 1st.

They received a response from the Somerset County Business Partnership stating they reached out to Watchung but we did not respond. Bill thinks we should offer Mr. Wright and Mr. Kerwin an invitation to a Board of Health meeting for a discussion. We will write a letter to them asking if they would like to attend our meeting of April 21st.

John commented that the population in New Jersey is so dense that local boards are needed, where other states such as Pennsylvania may have some large cities but many are small. Kevin agreed with this.

Bob said we need to put our together our presentation addressing what is done through our local board and Middle-Brook, and all aspects of the service we receive from Middle-Brook and request the County present their reasoning as to why they think a County based Health Department would be more efficient. Kevin agreed but said we should focus on this and not on dollar amounts. Middle-Brook could not compete with the County on a monetary level. Question how quick a county run Health Dept. would respond to requests from towns for things such as a septic tank abandonment inspection, which are increasing with additional sewer lines being installed, inspections of food establishments, massage parlors, and the many other yearly inspections we, as a town, require.

Bruce questioned what would happen if the County did take over the Health Department? Would the Local Board of Health still exist? Would we still be able to control our regulations as a town? Kevin said the regulations we have would still stay on the books and would be able to continue in regards to The Local Board of Health continuing, unless the local government body determines that it is not necessary. Our roll would continue to be the setting of health regulations and getting them on the books but we would have no control over what the County does. Right now we have some control because we have two members seated on the Middle-Brook Commission, at the County level we would not have anyone from the towns overseeing the County Health Department – that is down by the County Freeholders. It basically become contractual agreement instead of what we have now, which is a membership. You would only have control over what is included in that contract but once that contract is signed it is done.

A letter will be sent to Mr. Kerwin and Mr. Wright inviting them to our April 21th meeting to discuss shared services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

None

NEW BUSINESS-

Bob questioned the new law the Governor signed regarding marijuana – how is that going to work? Bruce commented that he thought it would be handled similar to the needle exchange program. There will be several sites set up for the distribution and the marijuana would be certified that it has come from a specific lab, grower, etc. and the person would be able to purchase a predetermined amount and they would have a letter certifying that it is legal. One problem may be interstate travel. It will be legal in New Jersey but other states may not honor this and the person could be arrested, fined, etc.

Harriet asked Bruce what was happening with the Poison Control Center. He said they have been cut Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars this year on top of the Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars last year. Right now they are down to fourteen people which has caused calls to the Center being on hold longer, or people abandoning a call because of the wait time.

Bruce commented that one weekend they got calls from parents asking what they should do and they were told to: 1) keep the child home and the Poison Control would call up and continue to monitor the child 2) nothing has to be done the child is fine. The Center kept 124 children from going to emergency rooms. That same weekend they received calls from hospital emergency rooms where parents had taken their child without calling the Center. Five of those children did not have to go to the emergency room. Insurance companies are billed for these children at \$500/\$600 dollars. There is about \$2,000 per day billed to insurance companies for cases that should never have gone to an emergency room.

Fran asked if the Board of Health could send a letter supporting the continuation of the Center. Bruce said the more people who send a letter stating the Center keeps many people out of emergency rooms, they do good work. Everyone agreed to send letters to our Representatives. Bruce will email a sample letter to MaryAnn for sending out to these Representatives.

Bruce asked if anything was discussed about holding another medicine drop off. Harriet said she spoke to Chief Sean Whelan about this and he would be interested in holding another one. A good time would be during Poison Prevention Week in March which is the third week.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No discussion

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR PAYMENT-

Dr. Greybek – December 5, 2009 – Rabies Clinic - \$ 90.00

Harriet Stambaugh made a motion to approve and seconded by Fran Ellis.

President Riedinger asked for a roll call to approve:

Ellis, Mobus, Nehls, Ruck, Sachariah, Savulich, Stambaugh, and Riedinger, all members in attendance approved.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public attended

ADJOURNMENT-

Before adjourning Bob thanked all members for their support and confidence in him as president for the past year and looks forward to continuing in the year to come.

Being no further business a motion to adjourn was moved by Harriet Stambaugh, seconded by Fran Ellis.

All members in attendance approved.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Secretary, Board of Health