

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Morris Plains Board of Health held on December 12, 2012 at 7:30 PM, in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

The following were present: Mrs. Peg Dugan
Mrs. Catherine Marshall
Mrs. Pam Nelson
Mr. Larry Ripley
Dr. Dario Fenimore

Attending: Mr. Ben Samara, Environmental Health Specialist
Mr. Carlos Perez, Health Officer
Mr. John McDermott, Environmental Health Specialist
Mr. Scott Aue, Environmental Health Specialist
Mayor Frank Druetzler
Mrs. Flo Rice, Madison Nursing Department
Mr. Frank Mangravite, Council Liaison

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Dugan at 7:40 PM. Mrs. Dugan stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, “Open Public Meetings Act.” Mrs. Dugan welcomed the County Health Officers, as guests at tonight’s meeting and introduced each by name. The Officers then gave a short synopsis of their experience in the health field.

Sanitarian’s Report – Mr. Samara noted that it was a busy month following the power outages and cleanup in the Borough. He reported that a coffee shop had been dealing with fruit flies. They placed vinegar traps throughout the establishment and it has improved a great deal. The supermarkets lost a great deal of their inventory. Some perishable food was saved through the use of generators.

Ben gave an update on a residence that 2 sisters own together. One has her belongings in the home while the other wants the home sold. Ben met with our Zoning and Fire Officers about the conditions. These owners have been given two weeks to improve the living conditions. The sister with the belongings in the home thought she had turned off the water, but the pipes froze. This caused a great deal of water damage and a horrible mold problem. They have two weeks to decide whether or not to rehabilitate the residence or raze it.

Mrs. Marshall then asked Mr. Samara if he noticed any areas of the Borough that needed improvement to prevent power outages in the future, such as tree limbs, etc. He did not know of any. Mrs. Dugan feels that the Board of Health has been very cognizant since last year’s October storm of meeting the needs of every resident in an emergency situation. Fortunately, we had a warming shelter set up at Mennen, in Madison and at police stations.

Flo Rice then reported that she and her nursing staff have met with the County nurse, Cindy Bella, to exchange information regarding our schools and the yearly auditing that must be done. She feels that the schools are in very good condition. Since our pre-schools in the Borough rely on these nurses a

great deal, they have had a very good working relationship with the Madison nursing staff. She is concerned that some physicians are running out of flu vaccine, since a great deal of vaccine was lost during the storm. But fortunately the large chains like CVS still have a good supply. And Flo's department has been referring parents to the County that inquire about the vaccine for their children. The Communicable Disease records have been passed on to the County. Records from the Wellness Day must be kept for over 10 years, so these too will be available to the County.

Peg Dugan then asked Flo Rice if there were any recommendations on how to improve next year's Wellness Day. Flo wondered if signing people up on the website might possibly be implemented, as well as phone calls to last year's participants, as a reminder. The Board was very receptive to both suggestions.

Mrs. Dugan then thanked both Flo Rice and Ben Samara for everything they have done for us for so many years. Mayor Druetzler then thanked them as well. Flo thanked the Board for such a wonderful relationship.

Mrs. Dugan noted that the Public Health Nurse for the County, Cindy Bella, met with Peg and with the Madison nursing staff on December 10. Peg is more than happy to help with the transition of the nurses.

Mrs. Dugan then asked Mr. Perez how he felt the transition was progressing. He mentioned a lead case in Madison that required the help of the County. He plans to go out again tomorrow morning on the case, since the County has a machine that Madison needs to borrow for use on the case. Mr. Perez intends to spend a great deal of time in Morris Plains during daylight hours. His two Environmental Health Specialists will be covering nights and weekends. They have covered Denville in this manner and it has been successful. Mrs. Dugan feels that Ben Samara has left the Borough in very good shape with the inspections all completed for 2012.

Mrs. Dugan then shared the State Inspection forms that will be utilized by the County staff. The County plans to store the completed forms, with the yellow copy being stored by the Borough. Our Borough Clerk plans to keep these in a notebook. The County plans to have one of the Health Specialists or the Health Officer present at our monthly meetings. Peg will also be setting up a meeting at Borough Hall for the County personnel to meet our Borough personnel. She also mentioned a new program being introduced by the Health Educator, Arlene Stroller. It is called One Million Hearts and is sponsored by the CDC. It deals with controlling hypertension and Peg would love to see it brought to Morris Plains. It would also be beneficial for the County personnel to meet with our web master, George Ross. Hopefully the new nursing staff will be introduced in the Spring issue.

Mrs. Dugan has drafted a letter to all food establishments within the Borough regarding the transition to the County for our health services. This will be sent out before January 1, 2013.

The question had arisen about whether or not the Borough had any specific I.D. for its health officials. Since there is none at the present time, the County has their own, if needed. Mr. Perez announced that he looks forward to working with all of us and that we should feel free to call him. He will be present at the Rabies Clinic, as well as a Rotary meeting on January 11.

The demographics of the Borough were then discussed. The Mayor noted that we are an aging town. There are the same number of homes with residents in the 60+ range as those with children 18 years

and under. The population in 1970 was 5,540 residents. The population in 2010 was 5, 532. In 1970 there were 939 students in the schools, while in 2010 there were 613.

Mrs. Marshall then expressed concern about the elderly. We are determined to provided for them, as their needs escalate. Mrs. Dugan has determined that her goal is for the Board of Health to learn more about public health and hopes to turn to the County to provide food handling courses.

Approval of Minutes – Dr. Fenimore made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 14 meeting, as circulated. Mrs. Marshall seconded the motion. Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Nelson abstained. The motion was passed by the remainder of the Board.

Bills – Veterinarian Services at Rabies Clinic in the amount of \$300.00

Mrs. Nelson made a motion to approve payment. Mrs. Marshall seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mrs. Dugan - yes
 Mrs. Marshall - yes
 Mrs. Nelson - yes
 Mr. Ripley - yes
 Dr. Fenimore - yes

Motion carried.

Bill from Madison Health Department for the Fourth Quarter of 2012 in the amount of \$23,278.25

Dr. Fenimore made a motion to approve payment. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mrs. Dugan - yes
 Mrs. Marshall - yes
 Mrs. Nelson - yes
 Mr. Ripley - yes
 Dr. Fenimore - yes

Motion carried.

Publicity – The Board decided that the County nursing staff would be introduced to Borough residents in the Spring edition of Plains Talk. The Rabies Clinic will be advertised on the Borough website and pet owners will be notified if their animals are due to be immunized.

Council News – They have been discussing the Pfizer property and the best procedures to use for governing new construction on the property. Variances are needed, which in turn helps to control the building.

Budget – Mrs. Dugan has completed the budget for 2013. She has designated money to be set aside for supplies and printed materials that might be needed by the County.

Old Business – Mrs. Dugan is responding to residents who wrote letters of support for the Madison Health Department. Mr. Mangravite has met with the Business Administrator of Denville regarding the lack of animal control reports from Denville. He was told that the reports are now being prepared by a police officer. We are now asking for the disposition of each call that takes place in Morris Plains. They estimated that there are approximately 30 regular calls per year and 33 emergency calls.

Rabies Clinic – The Clinic is set for January 12, 2013 from 1 to 3:00 PM. The snow date will be January 19. The secretary will contact the Road Department about the garage and parking for Dr. Werner. All supplies are on hand.

Water – Mr. Mangravite reported that the SMCMUA provides 8 million gallons of water per day to 4 municipalities. Most of our water comes from 2 wing wells, which is beneficial. But they exceed the recommended sodium level, due to snow removal. Some towns have switched to other products. The danger is to people at risk (those on kidney dialysis and those with hypertension). But SMCMUA feels that it is not a problem. The Borough uses this supply for only part of the year. It is possible to purchase water from Passaic Valley Water. The Council will be studying it further.

With no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Fenimore made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Carole J. Howell
Secretary