

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
AUGUST 11, 2020**

Mrs. Plantemoli called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:38 P.M.

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Board of Health was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to both the *Chatham Courier* and the *Morris County Daily Record* on January 15, 2020; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 15, 2020; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 15, 2020.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Mrs. Ewald, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Nikolopoulos and Mrs. Plantemoli. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Dolan were also present.

Mrs. Gardner was absent. Ms. Taormina was also absent

Participation in this meeting was provided to the Board Members, Board Professionals and the public via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Ewald moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Pending Septic Applications

65 Loantaka Lane North – Block 140 Lot 4.02

Mr. LaConte read into the record the memorandum from Mott MacDonald regarding the review of the septic application.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he reviewed the revisions to the plan, and he does not have any objection.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the Septic Application for 65 Loantaka Lane North. Mr. Nikolopoulos seconded the application.

Roll call: Mrs. Ewald, Aye; Mrs. Fowler, Aye; Mr. Nikolopoulos, Aye; Mrs. Gardner, Absent; Mrs. Plantemoli, Aye.

Reports

Public Health Nurse

Mrs. Dolan said that her report summarized some of the recent COVID updates. She also addressed the measures used to assess patient recovery. Mrs. Dolan said that negative testing has been discouraged because of how long it takes to get a negative test after a patient has recovered.

Mrs. Dolan said that she has been in touch with some of the school nurses, particularly the Head School Nurse. A meeting or Zoom call will be planned to discuss and review the whatever the current COVID protocols are at the time of the meeting.

Mrs. Plantemoli reported that she was invited to the July 23rd Chatham Borough Board of Health meeting. Having a unified message regarding COVID prevention from both Chathams was discussed. Mrs. Dolan stated that a 100% risk free enrollment cannot be guaranteed. She also commented that current information can be disseminated. Mrs. Ewald commented that Mayor Kelly is releasing Mayor's Messages with information he receives from the Health Department,

and she opined that it would be helpful to have the Board of Health make a statement. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that a unified message can be prepared, and he noted that he has been in touch with Dr. LaSusa extensively. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that plans may need to change as circumstances evolve, and professionals are working to develop the best plans they can with the information available.

Mrs. Dolan reported that the State Department of Health has almost-daily conference calls for local health departments to ask questions about COVID. A popular question was about State DOH guidance about reopening of schools, and recommendations are under review before the State releases them.

Mrs. Fowler asked what means of communication will be used by schools for positive COVID tests. Mr. Fitzpatrick said it is not yet known. Mrs. Dolan said that positive results will be submitted to her office for investigation and contact tracing. She also stated that those who are being tested for cause should quarantine until they receive the test results.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if the teachers feel comfortable returning to work. Mrs. Fowler stated that a recent report said that there were approximately 50 teachers that were not returning to work due to COVID concerns.

Mrs. Dolan reported that Governor Murphy announced changes to the phased reopening plan, and benchmarks need to be met for certain businesses can phase in. She also stated that every Tuesday the State is updating the list of states from which travelers will need to quarantine upon arrival in New Jersey. Mrs. Ewald raised a concern about parents dropping their children off at college and not considering if the school is in a state on the quarantine list.

Mrs. Ewald asked about the availability of PPE at long-term care facilities. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he visited the long-term care facilities, and they had adequate supplies even though they had less than they normally would. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that the facilities did not run out of supplies, however masks were used for multiple days.

Mrs. Ewald reported that the Tri-Town Cares group will be coordinating a panel discussion on August 25th to help parents prepare their children for hybrid learning.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about flu vaccinations. Mrs. Dolan said that clinics have not yet been planned, however the vaccine has been ordered. Mrs. Fowler said that the School District has recommended that students get their flu shot before the school year starts. Mrs. Plantemoli noted that it is normally not advisable to get a flu shot too early.

REHS/Health Officer

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that he has been working with the School District regarding the various elements of a reopening plan and how to handle potential contact tracing.

Mrs. Ewald asked if there are any health issues that the Board of Health should be mindful of regarding the recent power outage following Hurricane Isaias. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that food degradation is always a concern with long term power outages, and the Health Department follows up with retail food establishments in those circumstances. Mrs. Ewald asked about those who have medical equipment requiring electricity and if they can get priority for repairs. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the Health Department can be of assistance to such patients if an individual house is out, but not if the whole grid is without power. Mrs. Dolan noted that the OEM has a list of residents who need life-saving equipment so that generators can be made available, and she believes that such patients also register with power companies. She also said that a survey was sent out after Hurricane Sandy to assess who has medical equipment needing power.

Board of Health Secretary

Mr. LaConte reported that he only received one phone call about generator noise during the recent power outage. Mrs. Fowler asked if there was a specific request in the call. Mr. LaConte said that the resident suggested that generators be turned off at night and only run during the day. He stated that an ordinance would be needed to enact such a regulation.

Discussion

Noise Ordinance Letter to Residents

Mrs. Plantemoli suggested that the draft letter include a contact phone number for Township staff in case anyone has a question.

Mrs. Ewald opined that the Noise Ordinance itself is confusing, and asked if the language of the ordinance is standard language. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that local noise ordinances usually draw from State language.

Mrs. Plantemoli suggested that the letter highlight that lawn equipment is the recent cause for concern.

Mr. LaConte said that it would be difficult to incorporate every possible potential noise disturbance in a noise ordinance. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that someone may be avoided by a noise issue, and the Health Department would investigate to see if the noise violates the standards set by the Noise Ordinance. Mr. LaConte added that enforcement of the Noise Ordinance is reliant upon residents bringing an issue to the Township or Health Department's attention.

Mrs. Plantemoli suggested that the portion of the letter regarding landscapers and lawn equipment be highlighted in bold text. She also commented on the need for residents to share the information with their landscapers. Mrs. Ewald suggested removing some of the language in the letter to make it more clear. Mr. LaConte said that he would send the final draft to Mrs. Plantemoli for review before it goes out to the public.

Mrs. Ewald moved to approve the draft letter as amended. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Meeting Open to Public

Mrs. Plantemoli opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mrs. Ewald moved to adjourn at 8:53 PM. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary