

Delaware Township, Board of Health
October 5, 2020 Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Delaware Township Board of Health was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Board Chairman.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The Chairman led the assembly in the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Michael Textores, Peter Sudano, Katie Hooven, PhD, Michael Bokach, Jim Vena, Chadd Tindall, DVM, Jorge Berkowitz, PhD

Also Present: Joseph C. Tauriello, Esq., Township Attorney

Absent: Norman Strauss, Jr. and Carla Hobbs, from the Hunterdon County Division of Public Safety

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

The Notice Requirements provided for in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. Proper notice of this meeting was transmitted to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, and the Star Ledger, posted at the Delaware Township Municipal Building and filed with the Township Clerk all on January 7, 2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peter Sudano made the motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Health meeting on September 9, 2020, Michael Bokach seconded the motion and members unanimously approved the minutes. All voted Aye. Chadd Tindall, DVM and Jorge Berkowitz, PhD abstained.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHER

An invoice from Animal Control Solutions for \$246.38 for kenneling and emergency vet care for a severely injured cat was reviewed by the board. Katie made a motion to pay this invoice, Chadd Tindall seconded the motion. All Voted Aye. Roll Call.

BOARD OF HEALTH OLD BUSINESS

None

BOARD OF HEALTH NEW BUSINESS

None

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

The Board reviewed the most recent report.

The Board reviewed a case listed on the report where dogs were stolen and some dogs/cats were removed from a property in Delaware Township. Michael Textores asked Chadd to fill the board in.

Chadd said he has been caring for these animals since the owner and her boyfriend were arrested in Scranton PA for stealing puppies from a pet store. She kept these stolen puppies on Locktown School Road. Chadd also has the women's personal animals that were removed from the home. The woman's boyfriend picked up the personal animals today. The cost for the personal animals stopped as of today.

There is a large bill for over \$5,000 for the care of these 15 animals being held at the holding facility for over a month. This woman and her boyfriend will probably be charged criminally and then this bill for these animals will be added to the summons.

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The pet store owner has relinquished custody of the stolen puppies to Chadd. The charges stopped when the dogs were relinquished. He can now adopt those puppies out. If the pet store owner hadn't relinquished the puppies over to Chadd the puppies would still be held and cared for and the cost would still be growing until the court case.

Katie said we were warned cases like this would happen.

Chadd said when the NJ SCPA was dissolved the animals need to go to holding facility and the townships need to set money aside to cover these bills. He and the ACO met with this board two years ago to make sure the township set money aside for cases like this.

Chadd said Delaware Township still doesn't have a place to hold large animals, i.e. horses, goats and cows. The NJSCPA had a couple small farms who would take the animals. We don't have that anymore. Who would pay these farms for the care?

Chadd reminded the board of the case in Kingwood recently that was costly. The owner refused to surrender the animals.

Jorge Berkowitz said the township committee should be made aware of this case and the costs. Mrs. Gooding said she did email the mayor so he knows what is going on. The board discussed where the money would come from to pay for these types of cases. The cost for this bill can be added to the criminal summons.

Jorge asked how the state hold us responsible for these bills. Chadd said before the NJSPCA was dissolved they were a nonprofit and had backing. Their attorneys would put liens on properties to re-coop the money.

Chadd said this was a simple case because it didn't involve neglect or cruelty. Treatment would have to be provided for a sick animal.

Mr. Tauriello said he attended tonight to learn more on this case. He was informed of this case this morning and reviewed the report from Officer Murphy.

He wants to help limit exposure of larger bills affecting the township and the taxpayers. He said the animal owner should be charged first. He reviewed the contracts we have with Animal Control Solutions and the holding facility, Voorhees Corner Veterinary Clinic.

Mr. Bokach asked how other townships are handling cases like this. Katie said should let the committee know our wishes as a board.

The board discussed how the township would keep a holding facility if they think they will not get paid in cases like this or would have to wait a long time for payment.

Chadd said he is trying to keep these bills as low as possible. He is paying his staff to walk, feed these dogs, clean up, etc. He is eating all these costs and now has to try to find homes for them.

Michael Textores thanked Mr. Tauriello for attending tonight.

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HUNTERDON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – OLD BUSINESS

- A. Solid Waste N.O.V., B17, L18- 490 Sergeantsville Rd – Michael Textores read Carla’s email update to the board. A summons was signed and they will be asking the court to order the property cleaned up and proof of legal disposal provided.
- B. Suspect Kennel, B33, L18- 148 Lower Creek Road – Michael Textores said this investigation is in progress. She has a website selling dogs.
- C. Illegal dumping, B7, L16 Q0073- 31 Stone Signpost Road – Michael Textores said the NJDEP is handling the enforcement in this case, no progress as of yet.
- D. Septic Malfunction, B1, L9- 300 Old Croton Rd – Michael Textores said this malfunctioning septic at Old Croton Bar and Grill – summons signed, will be asking the court to order the owner of the property to install the approved septic system. The plans for the system were approved a year ago.
- E. Solid Waste Notice of Violation – B26, L21 – 66 Britton Road – Michael Textores said a NOV was sent have not heard from owner of the property.

HUNTERDON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board went over the letters and LINCS reports in the members’ packets.

Katie reviewed the Health LINCS reports with the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMENTS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Sudano said he is resigning as of tonight. He has had a lot of fun on this board. His home has sold and he will be moving out of the township. Michael Textores and the board thanked him for serving on the board for many years. Jorge Berkowitz said he brought Peter on this board.

Katie wanted to confirm the date of the Rabies Clinic. It is Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 10am till 12 noon. Chadd said we will limit the people in the building and he can go outside to do the dogs shots. His staff can do cats inside. The board asked for wipes, gloves, masks to be at the clinic this year. Mrs. Gooding will check with Dee Higgins on supplies for the clinic.

Jorge said there is an issue of hoarding in Rosemont. He asked that the county be informed and do an inspection. Mrs. Gooding will email Carla tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Members moved, seconded and unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Danene L. Gooding,
Board of Health Secretary

cc: Township Committee