

**WATCHUNG
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2012**

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.

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Peter Savulich; Louise Lindenmeier and Lynn Franklin were administered their Oath of Office. The Oaths were signed and will be placed on file in the Clerks office.

ROLL CALL-

Robert Riedinger (P), Stephen Pote, Council Liaison (P); Harriet Stambaugh (P); Fran Ellis (P); George Pogosky (A); Bruce Ruck (P); Ronald Jubin (P); Peter Savulich (P), Louise Lindenmeier (P); Lynn Franklin (P)
Also present was Middlebrook Representative-Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT

Harriet Stambaugh nominated Robert Riedinger for the position of Board of Health President, with a second by Fran Ellis. Nominations were closed and the motion carried unanimously on roll call.

NOMINATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Harriet Stambaugh nominated Bruce Ruck for the position of Board of Health Vice President, with a second by Peter Savulich. Nominations were closed and the motion carried unanimously on roll call.

Appointment for Representatives to Middle Brook – 2 Members & 1 Alternate

Members: Fran Ellis and Ronald Jubin

Alternate: Bruce Ruck

CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 16, 2011 MEETING

Fran Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2011 with a second by Ronald Jubin. All members approved.

Report of Vital Statistics for :

November

Births - Male- 3 Female- 2

Deaths - Male- 3 Female- 2

Marriages- 4

Domestic Partnerships – 0

Civil Unions - 0

December

Births - Male- 0 Female- 3

Deaths- Male- 5 Female- 4

Marriages- 2

Domestic Partnerships – 0

Civil Unions - 0

At this time President Riedinger requested we have the members of the Public introduce themselves and state what they would like to discuss with the Board.

Three residents from Johnston Drive were in attendance:

Guennadi Kharkovski – 1178 Johnston Drive
George Sayan - 1324 Johnston Drive
Richard Lukenda - 1160 Johnston Drive

The residents wished to discuss their concerns regarding the proposed Sewer project for that street and suggest possible exclusions/exemptions to the Boroughs Sewer Ordinance.

Mr. Nehls informed the residents that this Ordinance is a Borough Ordinance and the Board of Health can only make recommendations regarding exemptions/exclusions to the Laws and Ordinance Committee and our Ordinance cannot be less than what the State requirements are.

The residents then stated their concerns if they hook up to the sewer line. They would need a pump with the system, and also possibly have to blast due to presence of bedrock. They also stated that their septic systems are quite new and functioning properly. They feel this would be a financial hardship on them if they are required to hook up within six (6) months of the sewer line being installed. Some of these residents are in “upside down” mortgages and probably would not be able to refinance or get a second mortgage.

Regarding pumps: they do break, or if power is lost, as it was during Irene and the October snow storm, these residents would not have use of their bathroom facilities.

If their septic systems are properly maintained they could last 20-30 years.

The residents are not objecting to the assessment they would be required to pay, just the mandatory hook up. They also mentioned there are other fees required by the town for permits to tie into the system and abandon the septic system and once connected there is a yearly Sewer Tax.

They would like to recommend exclusions to include:

1. If a pump is required
2. age of septic system
3. presence of bedrock geological conditions..
4. financial hardship

The Board thanked the residents for their valuable input and said we would discuss possible exclusions to recommend to Laws and Ordinance.

After residents left the meeting it was decided to continue the discussion. Kevin stated we cannot exempt what the State requires. It was thought that the Borough ordinance has an exclusion if the home is 200' from the tie-in to the system – the State is 100' (we are more).

Kevin does not recommend age of septic (only if it includes a requirement for testing and proof of same). The Board of Health included a fee for this when we updated our Ordinance in November.

Bob questioned if the Grant for this project was predicated on the number of residents who would tie in to the system. Bill said it did not, but that we are telling the disposal (PARSA) that we will be sending additional waste from 30 more houses. If we only have 20 the Boroughs' contribution would be paying more because they calculate this by estimating the flow from 30 houses.

Bill said the Board of Health should discuss what they would be “comfortable” with as far as exemptions/exclusions.

Bruce asked if there is some type of insurance plan if a septic system fails. It is probably covered by homeowners insurance but residents would have to check into this.

Bill did say that if we were to allow pumping as an exclusion for tie-in, you could almost include the entire town because of all the hills. Up until now there have been no exclusions. Those people who have had to install pumps get a credit to their assessment.

Bruce asked if Kevin could give us a list of his recommendations for exclusions. He will supply this to the Secretary to forward to members for discussion at the next meeting.

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

There were questions asked by members on some of the items on the monthly reports:

Question on POD Planning – Kevin explained this is Point of Distribution for mass distribution of medications. The Somerset County Health Dept. in conjunction with the County OEM agreed that each Municipal OEM would write a plan for mass distribution of medication to the general public. We have a plan for first responders which he wrote years ago which has been adopted county wide and works fine. To do one for the general public is massive. There is not a lot of staff or resources for this. Particularly health care providers, nurses, physicians, etc. When the county decided to do this they gave OEM a template for this plan. It was based on the Burlington county health department which only has one health department. Somerset County has seven independent health departments. There is not one single responsibility for local health departments written into the plan but they required him to sign off on the plan as the Health Officer. He refused to sign because he would have no authority responsibility, or control.

This prompted a meeting with Warren Townships OEM and he said they could sit down and try to fix this or tell the County to take that plan and we would write a new one or she could sign off on it without his signature. They then met with Green Brook, Watchung, Warren and Long Hill Township and he explained how they could adapt it for our use and incorporate it with public health with issuing of antibiotics. Their only problem is human resources. This POD is Federal and is for Major Disasters.

What was the issue with the sink hole on Sunlit Drive– Kevin said it was believed it was an old, abandoned septic tank .

Broken sewer line on Ridge Road – PSE&G broke this line when installing a telephone pole. Engineering is handling this matter – Health Dept. assistance is not required at this time.

Johnston Drive – septic system inspected in response to a call that the system was in disrepair. Could not verify because the Septic is on the side of the cliff.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO MIDDLE BROOK

Did not have a meeting since our last meeting. They will have the re-organization meeting in early February. Most likely 1st Monday of February.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There were questions brought up at our last meeting regarding Kevin's' involvement with the OEM because of what happened with the storms. Kevin said he speaks with Gary Greves somewhat regularly but when a specific incident is occurring health is the last thing on anyones mind. Bruce said he would like to be part of the committee if there is one – as a representative of the Board of Health.

NEW BUSINESS-

Discuss on sewer connections-recommendations to Laws and Ordinance Committee was discussed at the beginning of the meeting – which included members from the public.

The president thanked the entire Board for listening and participating with the discussions with the residents.

CORRESPONDENCE: No discussion

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR PAYMENT-

Adolphe Greybek-Rabies Clinic – December 3, 2011	-	\$ 90.00
Moore Wallace North America – Registrar Safety Paper	-	\$125.00
Echoes Sentinel – Legal ad for final passage OR:BH2011/01-		\$ 19.89

Louise Lindenmeier made a motion to approve vouchers for payment with a second by Ron Jubin. The motion carried unanimously on roll call.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn moved by Ronald Jubin and seconded by Bruce Ruck.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069

Respectfully Submitted,
MaryAnn Hance
Secretary