

**WATCHUNG
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
December 12, 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.

ROLL CALL-

Riedinger (P); Black, Council Liaison (A); Stambaugh (A); Ellis (A); Ruck (P); Jubin (P); Savulich (A), Lindenmeier (A); Franklin (P); Middlebrook Representative- Sumner (P)

CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 19, 2012 MEETING

Ron Jubin made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, seconded by Bruce Ruck. Roll Call: Jubin, Ruck, Riedinger – “aye”, Franklin – “abstain”

REPORT OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR: September/October/November

SEPTEMBER

Births - Male- 5 Female- 1
Deaths- Male- 1 Female- 5
Marriages – 4
Domestic Partnerships – 0
Civil Unions - 0

OCTOBER

Births - Male-0 Female- 1
Deaths- Male- 2 Female-2
Marriages- 5
Domestic Partnerships - 0
Civil Unions – 0

NOVEMBER

Births - Male-0 Female- 2
Deaths- Male-5 Female- 11
Marriages - 2
Domestic Partnerships- 0
Civil Unions – 0

Bruce Ruck questioned the number of deaths in November. He wanted to know if any of them were related to Superstorm Sandy. He asked if Kevin could check this out. Kevin said there is no way he could check this out, and MaryAnn Hance stated unless it is stipulated on the Death Certificate as a cause or consequence of the death there would be no way of knowing this.

HEALTH OFFICERS (Kevin Sumner) REPORTS FOR: September/October/November

Bruce asked about the rat issue at one particular house. Kevin said Robyn did go to the home and inspect but there were no public health violations. There is a lot of debris such as wood, branches, etc. which in itself is not a health violation but could harbor rodents and insects. This property has been checked by the health department, and Ed Bennett from code enforcement and zoning. The town may look into changing or amending the ordinances to deal with situations like this. Lynn asked if anyone has gone inside the home and Kevin said we do not have legal authority to enter a home. Bruce questioned a resident being advised to treat their well for coliform bacteria, are neighbors informed of this. Kevin said it is a State law when a home is being sold and it has a well on the property it must be tested. These results are private and not made known to the public. If, however, there is groundwater contamination with high levels of volatile organics they would notify residents in that area to have their well tested.

Lynn asked Kevin what is a reportable disease. He explained there is a list of communicable diseases under State Law that hospitals, physicians, laboratories that have to be legally reported by those agencies who diagnose the disease. Kevin said Middlebrook does approximately 300-400 investigations each year.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO MIDDLE BROOK

Ron Jubin reported there were discussions on the strategic plan and setting up the roles for local Boards of Health and personal health issues were brought up such as pool safety regarding pool statutes and if they are being enforced to protect against accidental drownings. Middlebrook is trying to set up some recommendations for this. They also discussed the Red Light cameras and the safety issues regarding these cameras. There are no cameras in Watchung at this time. The Board is looking at putting forth some type of unified agreement to submit to the individual town. The biggest concern with these cameras is the possibility of rear-end collisions which can cause injuries. Bruce mentioned articles that have been in the news recently regarding accidents where it has been reported that the number of "t-bone" accidents has been reduced but the rear-end accidents have significantly increased. The number of accidents in the small study they did is way up. Ron Jubin stated there are better ways to control accidents at these intersections. He then reported the Commission went onto the topic of Superstorm Sandy and everyone traded off their horror stories and

one of the primary considerations was the communication issue. He mentioned that South Brunswick has a program called Nixel. It was mentioned that this program was approved at one of the council meetings for our police department. The Commission will be looking to move forward with ideas on all these issues, especially on a catastrophic incident like the Superstorm. Other issues discussed were the meningitis outbreak, which the Commission will keep a close eye on but at this time there are no incidents in this area, and the Commissions' budget which was discussed and approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Septic Ordinance

A Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance BH:12-01 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE WATCHUNG BOARD OF HEALTH CHAPTER 157-4 CONNECTION TO ACCEPTED PUBLIC SEWER REQUIRED** was held.

The meeting was opened to the public for any questions or comments.

With no one from the public desiring to be heard, President Riedinger closed the public hearing

BH:R1-12/12/12: Adoption of Ordinance BH:12-01 - SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING THE WATCHUNG BOARD OF HEALTH CHAPTER 157 ENTITLED, "SEWER USE"

President Riedinger then requested the Secretary publish the final passage.

Ronald Jubin moved this ordinance be approved. Lynn Franklin seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Riedinger, Jubin, Franklin "aye"; Ruck- "abstain"

NEW BUSINESS-

Budget: Lynn Franklin questioned the amount listed under the vouchers for payment for the Animal Control. MaryAnn Hance explained this amount is for the monthly contract payment to the Plainfield Area Humane Society for their services as our Animal Control Officer. Bruce Ruck asked if the owner of the animal is billed for this service when they pick the animal up from Plainfield Area Humane Society. The Borough does not send a bill to the owner and it is not known if the person is charged when they go to Plainfield to pick the animal up. Bruce would like the Borough to look into charging the owner for this

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2012

PAGE 3

service. He would like to find out if Plainfield Area Humane Society bills the owner. The fee the Borough pays is for the basic service for animal control. By State Law the Borough must have an animal control officer. Bruce would like to know if the owner has to pay something to the shelter and can we see what other towns do to recoup some of the costs. There were no other questions on the budget and upon roll call, Riedinger, Jubin, Franklin, Ruck, "aye"

Meeting dates were discussed and members agreed to the dates suggested with the possibility of setting a different date for either November or December.

Discussion on "storm related health issues, communication, OEM, etc. Bruce mentioned the discussion the Board of Health had last year after the October snow storm and the question as to what the Board of Health's involvement is during such emergencies. Bruce said during Superstorm Sandy there was still lack of communication which is beyond the scope of the Board of Health, but that health related issues and health related communication are the Boards' responsibility. He was concerned about the number of deaths in November and would like Kevin to look to see if any were storm related deaths. Kevin said there were none as far as he knew and if there were the Commission would have been notified. There is no indication that any of the deaths were due to the storm. Bruce said we should look into health related issues such as where the warming stations were if there were any, and there should be some type of communication to the residents to notify them where these sites are. The Board of Health does need representation on OEM. Kevin is part of this and during the storm and its aftermath he was in daily communication with the OEM Coordinator Gary Greves both by phone and in person. There were no specific public health issues in Watchung other than one or two food establishments cooking when they should not have been and these were taken care of. There was an incident where a resident who had health issues was moved, with their caretaker, to McCauley Hall. McCauley Hall opened up their facility for residents who needed medical assistance. They had electric because they do have a generator backup. Bruce asked how a resident would know where they could go. Kevin said there is a list of residents who would need medical assistance in circumstances like these. Residents are asked to register if they have medical issues/handicaps but it is strictly voluntary they cannot be forced to register. Bruce wanted to know how the Board or the Borough could communicate this to residents. Kevin said this is an OEM function by the State Police. Bruce asked if OEM could put something out in the Borough newsletter letting residents know about this register and how to go about signing up if they need to or maybe when the Rescue Squad sends out their annual fund drive letters they could put some information with the letter stating how to go about registering if they need assistance during emergencies. Bruce also suggested putting some information through our reverse email, and through the school systems, if something is written Bruce said he would bring it directly to Dr. Resko. Kevin said it cannot come from the Board of Health because we have nothing to do with it. Bruce then asked if, through these minutes, we could ask the town Council to go to OEM and ask them to please revisit this issue to see how it can be better known to the community to please sign up for this service to possibly use print media, the "unofficial" Watchung facebook page we have going and any other mass media. Bruce then said to ask the Council to make OEM responsible to issue newsletter communication and information on this program to that all residents can be informed and sign up if they have need to. Kevin stressed that we cannot force residents to sign up we can only remind them this is available. Kevin will get details and information and we can put the information in the next newsletter, and express this

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2012

PAGE 4

concern to the OEM coordinator. Bruce mentioned stores in Warren would have daily updates posted in the store windows listing warming centers and the hours they would be open etc. he wanted to know why we could not do this in Watchung. Kevin said Warren has a community emergency response team and Watchung tried to set one up years ago but it never came about. Bruce said he knows many people who would volunteer to be on this program and not just during the storms. Bob Riedinger asked about the local radio station which would be helpful for updates regarding warming centers, updates on the electric and any other important information. This would be helpful to those residents who have portable radios. Bruce said the most important thing is to make sure the Police, OEM, etc. are given the tools to communicate all pertinent information to insure the health and safety of all Borough Residents. There should be some written plan in place that would have contact information for places such as McAuley Hall, or Brandywine so the Police, OEM, Fire, Rescue Squad can contact them to see if they have heat, or power and if they are open for residents to come to their facility for these purposes. Kevin explained there is a State plan, a County plan and a Municipal plan and within the Municipal plan there are annexes that define the rolls and functions of each different agency. There is one for Public Health, and a Shelter annex and within the shelter annex there are guidelines and appendices or amendments to it but because facilities and contact information can change. Kevin said sheltering in Somerset County is a big issue for him right now. Sheltering in the entire county during this storm was abysmal. This needs to be addressed at a higher level. Fifteen or twenty years ago there was a plan in place that every stated it was the responsibility of every municipality for their shelters but then it changed and there were going to be regional shelters and if it was in your municipality it was your responsibility and if not people would be sent to wherever the site was located. Then Somerset County went to a countywide shelter which was at Raritan Valley Community College which was going to be run, manned and operated by the Red Cross. Red Cross recently changed their structure and they are no longer chapter based they are regional based and they do not have the resources to run these shelters. The only shelter set up in Somerset County this year, other than municipal run warming centers, was in Bernards Township and no one could get there. If there was a medical need the person could not go to Bernards Township they would have to go to Woodbridge which was the closest medical shelter. Kevin has put the County on notice that this is a major problem and it must be addressed. Gary Greves, Watchung OEM Coordinator, Warren Township OEM Coordinator Jane Ash, and Bound Brook have all been contacted and are in agreement with Kevin on this issue and will be working on this. Bruce asked if we could get some follow-up information at our next meeting but Kevin doubts that will happen that quickly. Bruce asked if this subject could be on the Board of Health agenda for every meeting so we do not forget to ask if there is any new development. Kevin suggested we should put it on as Public Health Preparedness and every one agreed with this

Discuss possible Tobacco Ordinance- This discussion was tabled until the January meeting when there are more members in attendance. Watchung does not have an ordinance but Lynn Franklin would like to see something on the books to discourage smoking on public places. Kevin did mention that Watchung is the only municipality in the Commission that does not have a local ordinance restricting tobacco use in public areas outdoors. Kevin did introduce a possible ordinance to us, which also included the hookah lounges, and it was passed on to the Laws and Ordinance Committee for review but they did not approve of it. Lynn thought the reason they did not was because of the issue of who would do the enforcing of this ordinance.

BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2012

PAGE 5

Bruce mentioned there were two drug related incidents at the high school and would like to have someone contact the high school to ask if they have any statistics on drug abuse at the high school level. Being parents and Watchung residents who have or will have children in the High School we have the right to know the extent of drug use in the school district. He feels we also need to know what type of planning the Board of Health should look at to communicate and drug issues in our schools. Can we request this information directly from the Board of Health or as an OPRA request. Bob said we would have to determine what we would do with the information once we get it. Kevin asked what exactly the Board is looking for and Bruce said he wants statistics on the use of drugs in the High School. Lynn asked if there was a Municipal Alliance group in Watchung. There is but at this time there is only one individual on the committee. Kevin suggested the Board stress a concern about high school age students in Watchung and the Board would like to take action, if appropriate or necessary, to educate the residents of Watchung about drug and alcohol use at the high school and in order to make that possible the Board needs local information from the high school. Bruce asked Kevin to do this on behalf of the Board and Ron asked if this issue should be brought up at the Commission meeting and Kevin said it could be along with discussing at a Municipal Alliance meeting when one is held. These are definitely issues the local Board of Health should be interested in addressing.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence

MIDDLEBROOK: items for discussion attached list

No discussion

VOUCHERS SUBMITTED FOR PAYMENT-

Middle Brook Regional Health Commission – 4 th Quarter Payment	\$20,667-50
Echoes Sentinel – Legal Ad & Affidavit of Publication –OR:BH:12-01	\$ 52.03

Ron Jubin made a motion to approve payment of vouchers seconded by Lynn Franklin and upon roll call as follows: Franklin, Jubin, Ruck, Riedinger- “aye”

PUBLIC PORTION:

There was no one from the public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT-

Motion to adjourn by Bruce Ruck, seconded by Ron Jubin all in favor.

The next scheduled meeting will be held January 16, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069

Respectfully submitted

MaryAnn Hance