

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

Mr. Pitney called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:31 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 5, 2024; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 5, 2024; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 5, 2024.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Mrs. Rowland, Mr. Srinivasan, Mrs. McCormack and Mr. Pitney.

Mrs. Fowler was absent.

Health Officer Marconi Gapas was also present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. LaConte noted that the minutes of the September 5, 2024 meeting were accidentally not distributed, and can be approved at the next meeting.

Septic System Applications

55 Britten Road – Block 48.19, Lot 157.01

Mr. LaConte said that the final design drawings and the review memo from Mott MacDonald were distributed to the Board.

Bill Jupinka, the design engineer, was present to answer any questions from the Board. Mr. Jupinka provided an overview of the application. He discussed the malfunction of the old system and the conditions on the property. Mr. Jupinka also addressed the presence of wetlands and said that a GP25 permit will be needed.

Mr. Pitney asked if it would make sense to remove the existing septic tanks considering the location where the new tanks will be installed. Mr. Jupinka said that it is normal for the tank to be pumped, crushed and buried in place.

Mr. LaConte noted that the lot grading plan has already been submitted to the Construction Department.

Mr. Pitney moved to approve the application subject to the conditions in the Engineer's review memo. Mrs. Rowland seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mrs. Rowland, Aye; Mr. Srinivasan, Aye; Mrs. McCormack, Aye; Mr. Pitney, Aye; Mrs. Fowler, Absent.

407 River Road – Block 63, Lot 25

Amit Chainani, the applicant, was present via Zoom to address the application. Mr. Chainani provided an overview of the application. He said that the current system is malfunctioning, and he provided a description of the proposed new system.

Mr. Pitney asked about backup power for the pump in case of an outage. Mr. Chainani said there would be a battery backup for the pump, and he is looking to add a solar system to his house in the future.

Mr. LaConte noted that Mr. Chainani has been working with the Construction Office regarding lot grading. Mr. Chainani said that lot grading was originally submitted as part of a Zoning Board application.

Mrs. McCormack asked if a battery backup for the pump will be sufficient for a several day period. Mr. Pitney said he does not know.

Mr. Pitney asked to whom the maintenance reports are submitted. Mr. LaConte said they would be submitted to his office.

Mr. Pitney moved to approve the application subject to the conditions in the Engineer's review memo. Mrs. McCormack seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mrs. Rowland, Aye; Mr. Srinivasan, Aye; Mrs. McCormack, Aye; Mr. Pitney, Aye; Mrs. Fowler, Absent.

Reports

Health Officer Report

Mr. Gapas reported that there was a Covid spike in early September, which was in line with covid statistics statewide. He also said that the variants in circulation are closely related to those addressed by the current vaccine. Mr. Gapas noted that ER influenza activity is presently low, however outpatient visits seem to be high. Pediatric RSV is currently low. Mr. Gapas said that he looked into the question from the last meeting about covid tests and if they can be used for current variants, and they can still be used. The Health Department anticipates having new test kits available soon.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

One temporary retail food license was issued in September, and two temporary retail food licenses were issued in October. The related events were the Chatham Township Fire Department's Community Appreciation Day as well as the Township's Fall Festival. The Nugget Spot has opened for business in the Hickory Square Mall.

The Rabies Clinic was held on November 2nd. There were three dogs and one cat vaccinated. Mr. LaConte noted that numbers have gone down over the years, and he also noted efforts made to advertise the event. Mr. Pitney said that many people might get their pets vaccinated when they are due rather than wait for the clinic. Mr. Pitney asked what veterinarian administers the shots. Mr. LaConte said that Dr. Sarle, who is a local veterinarian, performs the vaccinations. He also noted that the clinic is open to everyone regardless of where they live. Mr. LaConte noted that both one-year and three-year shots are available at the clinic.

The Annual Flu Clinic is scheduled for November 13th from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building. Mr. LaConte said that this clinic is limited to Chatham Township residents, and is also open to Township employees. Mr. Pitney asked about advertisement of this clinic. Mr. LaConte said that it is posted on the Township website and Facebook page, and the Facebook post can be shared. The Senior Center has also advertised the Flu Clinic. Mr. Pitney asked if Covid shots are available. Mr. Gapas said that Covid shots are not available at this clinic, however the flu shots will be the high dose. Mr. LaConte noted that the shots are free.

During November and December, applications will be sent out for renewal of retail food licenses and dog/cat licenses.

Registrar income for the previous two months is as follows:

September

3 Marriage Licenses	\$ 84
2 Death Certificates	\$ 20
<u>9 Marriage Certificates</u>	<u>\$ 90</u>
Total	\$194

October

10 Death Certificates	\$100
<u>2 Marriage Licenses</u>	<u>\$ 56</u>
Total	\$156

Mr. LaConte noted that of the \$28 marriage license fee, which is set by Statute, \$25 is the State's share of the fee.

Mr. Gapas noted that while the research shows that getting the flu and covid shots at the same time is safe, a nurse recommended to him that it is better to get them two weeks apart so that if there is a reaction it would be known which one caused the reaction.

Mrs. McCormack asked for clarification that there is not a scheduled covid clinic. Mr. Gapas said that it is not done at this time as the vaccine is no longer provided for free. He also highlighted that the flu vaccine is the high dose.

Discussion

2025 Meeting Schedule

Mr. LaConte asked if the Board has a preference of scheduling a meeting for every month in 2025 or to stick with the 2024 process of having meetings scheduled every other month knowing that special meetings could be scheduled.

Mr. Pitney said that the current scheduling practice has worked out. Mr. LaConte noted concerns that had been submitted to the Mayor from a septic contractor. He also noted that special meetings depend on the availability of Board members, and such meetings need to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act.

The consensus of the Board was to schedule meetings every other month.

Meeting Open to Public

Mr. Pitney opened the meeting to the public.
Seeing no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Pitney moved to adjourn at 8:06 PM. Mrs. McCormack seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary