

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
MARCH 5, 2026**

Mrs. Fowler 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 9, 2026; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 9, 2026; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 9, 2026.

Oath of Office

Mrs. Rowland was sworn in as a member of the Board of Health. The Oath was administered by Mr. LaConte.

Roll Call

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

Mr. Srinivasan was absent.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Pitney moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2026 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rowland and was unanimously approved.

Reports

Health Officer Report

Mr. Gapas reported that respiratory trends are being monitored. He noted two spikes in covid cases. Mr. Gapas also noted that flu and RSV trends are following what has been seen statewide. Mr. Gapas stated that immunization audits at schools have begun, and flu shots remain available for those who are homebound. Covid test kits are available at the Health Department. Mr. Gapas also reported that the health inspectors have begun school inspections, and facility inspections are also underway.

Krissantonia Kerr said she received a request from the Senior Center to hold a Project Healthy Bones program. She has contacted the State about finding someone with the proper certification to run the program or train someone in the Health Department to run it. Ms. Kerr said she has also contacted the County to see if they have someone available to run the program.

Ms. Kerr also said that a Teen Thrive program is planned, and it is an after school program. Chatham High School and the Library of the Chathams are two potential locations for the program.

Mrs. McCormack noted that the programming director at the Senior Center plans programs several months in advance, and there is not any rush for Ms. Kerr to get the training for the Healthy Bones program.

Mrs. Fowler asked about programs targeting teens. Ms. Kerr said that there are programs that bracket the ages for middle schoolers and high schoolers.

Mrs. Fowler asked if Ms. Kerr needs anything from the Board before moving forward. Mr. Gapas said they will need points of contact for the School and for any clubs.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Processing of pet license renewal applications began on January 1, 2026. Several renewals were submitted through the online portal, however most were submitted through paper applications with payment by check or cash. As of February 28th, there have been 225 dog licenses and 9 cat licenses issued for 2026. These numbers include both renewals and new licenses.

During the month of January, 3 retail food licenses were issued. 2 were issued in February. There remain 3 still to be renewed.

Summonses having been issued to those property owners who failed to renew their septic licenses in 2025, court dates were scheduled for the matters to be dealt with in Municipal Court. Of the 18 properties who received summonses, 10 were able to resolve the non-compliance prior to their court date and were able to have their hearings dismissed.

A complaint was received regarding the Green Village Packing Company. The complaint was forwarded to the Health Department for investigation and the matter has been addressed.

Registrar income for January and February was as follows:

January

2 Death Certificate	\$20
<u>7 Marriage Certificates</u>	<u>\$70</u>
Total	\$90

February

2 Marriage Licenses	\$56
1 Death Certificate	\$10
<u>3 Marriage Certificates</u>	<u>\$30</u>
Total	\$96

Mr. Pitney asked if there are measures to let owners of properties know that it is cheaper to maintain a septic system than to install a new one. Mr. LaConte said that the property owners who were non-compliant with the licensing requirement have generally maintained their systems, and the struggle is getting them to provide proof of the pumping any pay the license fee.

Mr. Pitney asked about having the Board Attorney present at meetings. Mr. LaConte said he will follow up to see if they will be at the next meeting.

Mr. LaConte noted that the property for which a waiver of the certificate of continued use was granted at the last meeting has now been sold.

Discussion

Health Fair

Mrs. Fowler asked if the Board will support having a table at the Health Fair being held in Chatham Borough on May 22nd.

Mr. Gapas said that he is not available to attend, however Ms. Kerr can be there in the afternoon. Mr. Gapas also said he will coordinate efforts with the Borough's Health Officer.

Snow & Ice Removal From Sidewalks

Mrs. Fowler asked for an update on the last meeting's discussion on requiring residents to clear snow and ice from sidewalks. Mrs. Rowland said that the Township Committee does not plan to pass an ordinance to make that requirement due to the low number of sidewalks. She also said

that some residents who have not shoveled are elderly residents who do not want to ask for help. Mrs. Rowland also encouraged neighbors to help each other.

Meeting Open to Public

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

Mrs. McCormack moved to adjourn at 8:03 PM. Mrs. Rowland seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary