

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
MARCH 6, 2025**

Mrs. Fowler called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:30 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 10, 2025; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 10, 2025; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 10, 2025.

Roll Call

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

Mrs. Rowland was absent.

Health Officer Marconi Gapas was also present via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. McCormack moved to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitney and carried unanimously.

Reports

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Reminders were sent to those retail food establishments who had not yet renewed their annual licenses at the beginning of February. As of March 4th, all regular establishments have renewed their licenses. Any remaining establishments that still need to renew are seasonal establishments (Noe Pond Snack Bar, Colony Pool Club).

During the month of March, septic license renewal notices will be sent out to owners of properties with septic systems. Septic licensing, which is required by a Board of Health ordinance, is done every three years. To renew a license, property owners are required to pay a \$15 fee and provide evidence that the system has been pumped in the prior two years. The Township is also required to have this process in place as part of our wastewater management plan.

A septic application for the group home at 490 River Road has been reviewed by the Board Engineer, and has been forwarded to the Health Department for final approval. A new application has been received for a septic alteration at 372 Green Village Road.

On February 27th, training was received for receipt of online payments in SDL for per licensing. This moves us a step closer to having pet licensing available through the online portal. The plan is to aim to have the online registrations and renewals be activated on April 1st.

Registrar income for the previous two months is as follows:

January

2 Marriage Licenses	\$56
4 Marriage Certificates	\$40
<u>1 Death Certificate</u>	<u>\$10</u>
Total	\$106

February

1 Marriage License	\$28
8 Marriage Certificates	\$80
<u>1 Death Certificate</u>	<u>\$10</u>
Total	\$118

Mrs. Fowler asked how the Township will get word out about online registrations and renewals for pet licenses. Mr. LaConte said he has not yet investigated any marketing strategies, and wants to be sure of the active date before promoting the new service. Mr. LaConte noted that the Construction Department will also be accepting online payments for permit applications. He also asked the Board to share any ideas they may have for promoting the new service. Mrs. McCormack said that there is a bulletin board at Hickory Square Mall near the pet shop that might be a good spot. Mr. Pitney said that the bulletin board is maintained by the Historical Society, and he will reach out to see if they would be amenable to having a sign from the Board regarding pet licensing. Mr. LaConte said that many pet owners that had licenses last year are aware that online renewal will be forthcoming. He also said that National Night Out could be an opportunity for promotion of pet licensing.

Health Officer Report

Mr. Gapas reported that Covid trends are being monitored, and cases have been stable over the past several months, and there have been three to six cases per week for December, January and February. Covid-19 test kits are still being offered. There was not any Covid impact on schools. Mr. Gapas reported that the Public Health Nurse is almost finished with immunization audits, and compliance rates have been good. Requests have been received for public health programs.

Mrs. Fowler asked about cases of the measles in New Jersey, and asked if anything is being locally to monitor. Mr. Gapas said that there have not been any concerns expressed by the public health nursing staff.

Mrs. Fowler asked how much of the Health Department's work is federally funded as compared to State funding. Mr. Gapas said that during the height of the Covid pandemic, there was a lot of Federal funding that is now dwindling. He said that most operations are funded through local tax dollars.

Mrs. McCormack asked about a request for documents for a Meta lawsuit. Mr. LaConte said that the School District was involved in a lawsuit regarding the impact of social media on adolescent mental health, and a subpoena had been received for documents with metrics related to that. Mr. Gapas said that a records search was conducted, and they did not have anything responsive to the subpoena.

Meeting Open to Public

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

Mrs. McCormack moved to adjourn at 7:52 PM. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary