

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
MAY 1, 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, Mrs. Rowland, Mr. Pitney and Mrs. Fowler.

Mr. Srinivasan was absent.

Health Officer Marconi Gapas was also present via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. McCormack offered a correction to the March 6, 2025 minutes.

Mrs. McCormack moved to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2025 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitney and carried unanimously with an abstention by Mrs. Rowland.

Discussion

E-Bike Safety

Chief Tom Miller and Traffic Safety Officer Sean Lampf of the Chatham Township Police Department were present to discuss E-Bike Safety. Officer Lampf provided an overview on measures taken by the Police Department to address the safe usage of e-bikes. He described the time spent at Chatham High School working with students who rode bikes to school on proper helmet usage. Officer Lampf noted that he also spent time observing which students continued to use helmets and noting which students ignored proper procedures. Parents of those students not following the rules were contacted as a warning that the Police Department would need to take enforcement action if the student continued to ignore the rules regarding helmet usage and bicycle/e-bike safety. Officer Lampf noted that some parents had inadvertently bought e-bikes that were not compliant with NJ regulations. A pamphlet was also prepared to address bike safety.

Chief Miller said that his big ask is to educate parents, as that is where enforcement should begin. He also said that the Township PD focuses on Chatham High School and Lafayette Avenue School as they fall within the Township.

Adding bicycle safety to the Health Class curriculum was suggested.

Officer Lampf noted that bicyclists are required to follow all the rules of the road, and summonses can be issued to those who violate traffic laws. He also said that summonses can impact the ability of students to get driver's licenses.

Mrs. Fowler asked about bike related accidents. Officer Lampf said the only accident in the past 9 months was one where the victim fell off their bike.

Mr. Pitney asked about the most common violations beyond helmet usage. Officer Lampf said that failure to follow rules of the road is common. Mr. Pitney asked if e-bikes modified to

exceed the 20 MPH limit could be confiscated. Officer Lampf said that there are discussions on how that would be handled.

Mr. LaConte asked if e-bikes are allowed to occupy the whole traffic lane when they are limited to 20 MPH, or if that would be a traffic obstruction. Officer Lampf said that it depends on the road. He noted that generally a bicycle needs to be as far to the right as they can while riding safely, and bicycles cannot ride two abreast.

Mrs. McCormack suggested that social media such as TikTok be used to promote bicycle safety.

Mr. Lampf noted that purchase of e-bikes through Amazon has become problematic, as they are willing to sell e-bikes that do not comply with NJ regulations.

Mrs. Rowland asked if the Township could adopt an ordinance to require registration of e-bikes. Officer Lampf said that anything over 750 watts is defined as a moped which requires registration through DMV, plus insurance.

Mrs. McCormack suggested that bike safety could also be addressed with parents at Back to School Night.

National Night Out

National Night Out will be on August 5th. Including bicycle safety as a topic was noted.

Mr. Pitney asked about the location for National Night Out, and if provisions would be made to have a backup location in case of rain. Chief Miller said that the plan is to be at Colony Pool, and there are not plans for a backup location. Mr. Pitney suggested either the gym at the Municipal Building or the Chatham Emergency Squad as potential backup locations.

Chief Miller said that HopeONE will be at National Night Out this year.

Mrs. Fowler asked if there are any other topics to address at National Night Out. Officer Lampf suggested that car seat safety be addressed.

Vaping was discussed, and Chief Miller said he has not received any recent reports of that being a problem at Chatham High School.

Mr. Pitney asked if there are any new trends that present a health risk to children. Chief Miller said that Chatham Township does not face many of the problems that some other towns face.

Mr. LaConte said that plans for National Night Out can be finalized at the July meeting.

Reports

Health Officer Report

Mr. Gapas reported that through March and April there has been a decrease in respiratory illnesses. He also reported on topics for National Night Out, and said that seasonal topics can be addressed as well.

Mr. Pitney asked about a noise issue at Cougar Field. Mr. Gapas said that it was related to amplified music at a team practice. Mr. LaConte noted that the Township Code was updated to provide certain allowances. He also said that just because there is a complaint does not mean that the noise is necessarily a violation.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Effective April 1st, the online portal for pet license registration is active. During the month of April, 5 licenses were renewed online. As of April 30th, there have been a total of 265 dog licenses and 16 cat licenses. Mr. LaConte noted that there were twice as many dog licenses issued in April 2025 as there were in April 2024.

Septic applications for the following addresses are still under engineering review:

- 1. 372 Green Village Road
- 2. 490 River Road
- 3. 566 River Road

Renewal notices have been mailed out for septic licenses. Applications with proof of pumping are due to be returned by August 1st. Mr. LaConte noted that the pumping requirement is part of the Township’s wastewater management plan.

All members of the Board and professionals have filed their Financial Disclosure Statements on time.

Registrar income for the previous two months is as follows:

March

1 Marriage License	\$28
<u>3 Marriage Certificates</u>	<u>\$30</u>
Total	\$58

April

9 Death Certificates	\$ 90
5 Marriage License	\$140
<u>2 Marriage Certificates</u>	<u>\$ 20</u>
Total	\$250

Meeting Open to Public

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

Mrs. Rowland moved to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Mrs. McCormack seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary