

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**

Mrs. Fowler called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:29 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 Mr. Srinivasan, Mrs. McCormack, Mr. Pitney and Mrs. Fowler

Mrs. Rowland was absent.

Health Officer Marconi Gapas and Attorney Phil George filling in for Board Attorney Brian Hak were also present.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. McCormack moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024 meeting. Mr. Pitney seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Reports

Health Officer Report

Mr. Gapas reported that there was a COVID surge in July and August. He said that test kits will be received from the County, and will be dropped off at the Municipal Building. Mr. Gapas noted that the information that was prepared for National Night Out are still available if other events are scheduled. The Health Department has been in touch with the School District.

Mr. Pitney asked about the test kits. Mr. Gapas said they can be distributed through the Clerk's Office. Mr. Pitney asked if older tests are still applicable with the new variances. Mr. Gapas said that the County has new tests. Mr. Pitney said that there is dated information on the Township website about Covid and other health issues. He also asked about promotion of the American Federation for Suicide Prevention's fundraiser walk.

Mr. Pitney asked about the information in the report for Covid cases. Mr. Gapas said that the numbers reflect reported cases statewide. It was noted that there are likely to be unreported cases, as the Health Department only learns about those cases that receive a lab test or the test is done in a clinical setting.

Mr. Pitney asked if there is a discernible uptick of cases 6 months after a new vaccine is released. Mr. Gapas said he will review to see if there is a trend. Mr. Pitney said that there could be a mutation during that time that leads to an uptick as boosters wear off.

Updating the Township website with more current information was further discussed.

Mrs. Fowler asked about the upcoming Fall Festival. Mr. LaConte said he does not have any information available about it.

Mr. Pitney asked if there is an alternate location that can be used if National Night Out is ever rained out again. Mr. LaConte said he is unsure if there are any viable locations. Potential locations were discussed.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Mr. LaConte reported that a septic application has been received for 55 Britten Road, and is currently under engineering review. The application for 407 River Road is also still under review. As of August 31st, there have been 280 dog licenses, and 15 cat licenses issued thus far for 2024. There were not any new retail food licenses issued in July or August.

Registrar income for the previous two months is as follows:

July

1 Marriage Licenses	\$28
1 Death Certificates	\$10
<u>1 Marriage Certificates</u>	<u>\$10</u>
Total	\$48

August

2 Birth Certificate	\$ 20
8 Death Certificates	\$ 80
2 Marriage Certificates	\$ 20
<u>1 Marriage License</u>	<u>\$ 28</u>
Total	\$148

Mr. LaConte noted a recent home birth in the Township, noting that it is very rare that births occur in the Township. He said that none of the births in the Township during his time working for the Township were planned to be home births.

Mr. LaConte said that he hopes that the two pending septic applications will be ready for Board approval at the November meeting.

Discussion

Bicycle Helmets

Mrs. Fowler said that she wanted to discuss people riding e-bikes without helmets. Enforcement of helmet laws was discussed. Mr. LaConte said he would reach out to the Police Chief to see what the Police Department is doing to enforce the laws and educate bicyclists.

The Board discussed partnering with the School District and the Police Department to educate children about the importance of helmets. Mr. LaConte said that education would likely be a first effort before enforcement.

Mosquitos

Mrs. Fowler said that she saw mosquitos mentioned in the Health Officer's Report, and asked if it is a growing issue. Mr. Gapas said that this has been a typical season, and there are notifications whenever a positive pool for West Nile Virus is found.

Mr. LaConte said that there was recently spraying conducted near the recycling center.

Mrs. Fowler said that the Environmental Commission had recently sent an email about dunks used to trap mosquitos. Mr. Pitney said that he has tried using them and they did not work.

Mr. Gapas said that Morris County has been very responsive about mosquito issues. He also said he will look into natural methods to address mosquitos. It was noted that bats are a natural feeder on mosquitos, and Mr. Pitney said that the bat population has rebounded.

It was noted that there have not been any reported illnesses in Chatham Township due to mosquito-borne diseases.

Meeting Open to Public

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

Mr. Pitney moved to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Mrs. McCormack seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary