MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
MAY 11, 2021

Mrs. Plantemoli 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 14, 2021; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 14, 2021; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 14, 2021.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Mr. Nikolopoulos, Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Plantemoli. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Dolan were also present.

Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Taormina were absent.

All participation in this meeting was via Zoom.

Minutes

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting. Mr. Nikolopoulos seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reports

Public Health Nurse

Mrs. Dolan reported that the current COVID totals are 519 confirmed cases and 204 probable cases. She also said that the CALI score has been down for the past two weeks, and the numbers are dramatically down. Mrs. Dolan also stated that COVID vaccines are more widely available, and some mega sites have closed due to decreased demand. The quarantine period following exposure in Chatham schools is now 7 days with a test and 10 days without a test. Mrs. Dolan reported that the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice has a meeting on May 12, 2021. She expects the COVID vaccine to be approved for persons aged 12 to 15.

Regarding communicable diseases, there were not any reports of anything other than COVID during April. Guidance for Ebola has changed, and the Democratic Republic of Congo has been removed from the list. There are not any persons being tracked in the Chatham area.

There is an outbreak of COVID at a long-term care center in the Township. The majority of the 9 cases are among unvaccinated persons. Mrs. Dolan also reported that schools were requested to maintain vaccination records of students who were learning from home, and Health Departments were asked to perform audits as if it was a normal year. All schools have been audited, and all Chatham students were resolved.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about vaccination programs for homebound residents. Mrs. Dolan said that a list of names was prepared and submitted to the Morris County Department of Aging. The County is working with Atlantic Health staff to identify those who are still in need of vaccines.

Mrs. Gardner asked how patients were sent from hospitals to subacute facilities without COVID testing. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he thinks it is a matter of tests being conducted before the virus has had sufficient incubation time after exposure to result in a positive PCR test.

REHS/Health Officer

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that there is a septic design under engineering review, and there is a real estate transaction involved. He asked if the Board wanted to allow the real estate transaction to take place prior to approval of the septic permit. Mr. LaConte said that the Township Code

requires that either the septic system be brought up to working order first, or the buyer can place money in escrow with the Township as a guarantee that the project will be finished within 45 days and the home will not be occupied until the septic installation is complete.

Mr. Fitzpatrick discussed an epi curve regarding COVID cases. He noted a correlation between spikes of cases and holidays, and said that Morris County trends follow Statewide trends. Mr. Fitzpatrick also said that there are better outcomes with COVID than there were this time last year.

Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that the Health Department now has an epidemiologist on staff.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in April 2021:

1 Death Certificates		$10
2 Marriage Licenses		$56
3 Marriage Certificates		$20
	Total	$86

Mr. LaConte reported that he has been working with REHS Melanie Bergstrom regarding pool licensing. He also noted that the Municipal Building has partially reopened, and a pre-opening inspection was performed by Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Mr. LaConte further reported that the June 8th meeting will need to be rescheduled, as that is the same day as the Primary Election. Consensus of the Board was to reschedule the meeting for June 1st.

Mr. LaConte reported that a resident submitted an inquiry about noise issues from landscapers.

Meeting Open to Public

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

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Mrs. Gardner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary