MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
JUNE 15, 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. Fowler, Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Plantemoli. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Dolan were also present.

Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Taormina were absent.

Minutes

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Gardner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with an abstention by Mrs. Fowler who was absent at that meeting.

Reports

Public Health Nurse

Mrs. Dolan reported that there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases, and there is now a low CALI score. She said that the COVID-19 vaccine is having an impact on transmission rates. Mrs. Dolan also reported that the Bloomfield and Madison Health Departments were able to procure 100 doses of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine. Mrs. Dolan also reported on efforts to get vaccines to homebound residents.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if there is any data on how many Chatham High School students have been vaccinated. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that data is not presently available. He also noted efforts to make the vaccine available for people younger than 18. Mr. LaConte asked if it is known whether booster shots will be necessary. Mr. Fitzpatrick said it is not yet known. Mrs. Gardner said that testing is still being performed to see how long the antibodies last in vaccinated patients.

Mrs. Dolan reported that the COVID outbreak at Chatham Hill Subacute Care has concluded. There have been some cases of pertussis. Some foodborne illnesses have also been reported. Mrs. Dolan said that there have been fewer religious exemptions for vaccinations. The Madison Health Department received an Influenza Honor Roll Award.

Mr. LaConte cited the vaccination percentages for Chatham Township as posted in the State's Covid Dashboard.

REHS/Health Officer

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he spends most of his time answering questions for the public on Covid matters. He said that there have been a lot of questions regarding the lifting of Covid restrictions. Mr. Fitzpatrick also explained that CDC guidance is more general for the whole country, and the State must enact requirements based on New Jersey's specific circumstances.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if the Board of Health should take a stance regarding wearing of masks in schools in September. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the School District still has to develop a plan based on such information as the CALI score. Mrs. Plantemoli asked if there are any mandates

for teachers to get vaccinated. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that is currently a personal choice for the teacher.

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that some septic inspections have been performed, and other routine activities have resumed.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

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

3 Death Certificates		$20
2 Marriage Licenses		$56
4 Marriage Certificates		$30
	Total	$106

Mr. Nikolopoulos moved to accept the reports. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Septic System Application

16 Britten Road – Block 48.21 Lot 163

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the subject property has complications, as do many of the properties in Chatham Township that still have septic systems. He said that the property met the requirements for having a septic system at a time when the requirements were less restrictive. Over time the requirements became more restrictive, and the septic design is unable to meet some of the requirements. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the proposed design is an improvement over present conditions, and the State's objective is not to condemn the property. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that if the property was undeveloped, installation of a septic system would not be allowed. However, as the property is already developed, the objective of a redesign is to engineer the best system possible.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about the conditions set forth in the review memorandum from Mott MacDonald. Mr. LaConte said that many of the requirements are steps that would have been taken anyway. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the Health Department will also perform inspections. He also said that data will be certified and submitted by the design engineer. Mr. Fitzpatrick also addressed the setbacks.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the proposed design is a high-quality design that he believes will function properly.

Mrs. Fowler asked if there are any risks from not meeting current standards. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the law allows for the best system possible to be designed in situations like that of the subject property.

Bill Jupinka, Bayer-Risse Engineering, said that he works with the design engineer. Mr. Jupinka said that their professional opinion is that the proposed design is the best suited design for the property. He said that the State code requires a 10-foot setback, and the Township code requires a 25-foot setback.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about the deviation from the setbacks. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the State requirement is that designs must come as close to meeting the standards as possible when the property is an existing home. Mr. LaConte stated that most of the properties in the Township that have septic systems also have a variety of constraints. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the current system was found to be failing during an inspection for a closing. He also said that the design engineer and installation contractor will work with the Health Department for inspections.

Mr. LaConte said that as-builts are submitted as a routine step in the installation of a septic system. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the Board can review the as-builts once they are submitted. Mr. Jupinka indicated that the applicant will comply with the conditions set forth in the review memorandum from Mott MacDonald.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if the property owner is willing to stipulate to the conditions set forth in the review memorandum. Mr. Jupinka said that the stipulations are typical and were anticipated. Mr. LaConte stated that the Certificate of Compliance will be signed by the design engineer and the Health Officer.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the application. Mr. Nikolopoulos seconded the motion.

Roll call: Mr. Hamilton, Absent; Mrs. Fowler, Aye; Mr. Nikolopoulos, Aye; Mrs. Gardner, Aye; Mrs. Plantemoli, Aye.

Meeting Open to Public

Mrs. Plantemoli opened the meeting to the public.

1. Erin Burgo, Candace Lane, said that she recently reviewed the Township's Noise Ordinance. She said that not all of the Township's Police Officers are familiar with the details of the Noise Ordinance and asked the Board of Health to liaise with the Police Department to make sure the ordinance is understood. Mrs. Burgo said that the noise issue in her neighborhood pertains to outdoor speakers.

   Mr. Fitzpatrick addressed how the Noise Ordinance is enforced, and the situation described by Mrs. Burgo is a matter for the Police Department to enforce. Mrs. Burgo said that in conversations she has had with several Police Officers, there have been different understandings of the provisions of the Noise Ordinance.

   Mr. LaConte asked Mrs. Burgo to describe the matter in an email to him, and he will forward it to Chief Miller so that the Police Department can ensure that the Noise Ordinance is consistently applied.

Seeing no further public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to adjourn at 8:37 PM. Mrs. Gardner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

_____
Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary