MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
AUGUST 10, 2021

Mrs. Plantemoli called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:34 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. Hamilton, Mr. Nikolopoulos, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Plantemoli. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Dolan were also present.

Mrs. Gardner and Ms. Taormina were absent.

Minutes

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 meeting as amended. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reports

REHS/Health Officer

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that July saw a stabilization of COVID numbers. He also reported that he has worked with school superintendents to plan for the new school year, and stated that the Governor has mandated wearing of masks at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Fitzpatrick further reported that last week there were 3 COVID outbreaks in summer camps, and 21 this week.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked what qualifies as an outbreak. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that it depends on the setting, and provided examples. He also stated that outbreaks in schools involve clustering of cases that occur within a facility.

Mrs. Plantemoli noted that Chatham Township has a vaccination rate of 86%. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that the last count of COVID cases in Chatham Township was only 4 active cases. Mrs. Plantemoli asked about mandatory vaccinations for healthcare workers. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that there is a list of the types of facilities for which healthcare workers need to be vaccinated.

Mr. Hamilton asked how the percentage of vaccinated residents is calculated. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that when a vaccine is administered, the data is entered into the NJ Immunization System. He also noted that the data is not always immediately entered into the system, and sometimes patients are incorrectly entered in a town other than where they live.

Mr. LaConte asked if it is known yet if patients who get a flu shot or COVID booster would need to wait to get the other vaccination. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that there is not any guidance yet, and it would likely come from the FDA. He further stated that there has been discussion of combining the COVID and Flu vaccines in the future. Mr. Fitzpatrick further stated that there will be Flu clinics this year.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if schools can require that students be vaccinated and if parents have any options. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the religious exemption is an option, and legitimate medical exemptions can also be granted. He also stated that some vaccines are required although COVID is not.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about the failed inspection at the Rosevale pool. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that there was originally a failure and subsequently a conditional satisfactory inspection. He stated that pools usually fail due to bacterial content such as fecal coliform.

Mr. Fitzpatrick further reported that Mrs. Dolan's last day at work was August 9th.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

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

4 Marriage Licenses		$112
3 Death Certificate		$20
	Total	$132

Mr. LaConte further reported that all retail food licenses have been issued. He also stated that 380 dog licenses have been issued.

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

Septic System Application

431 Green Village Road – Block 48.18 Lot 145

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that he reviewed the septic plans, and he described how the proposed system is designed to work.

Mr. LaConte stated that there is a pending real estate transaction for the property as well.

Mrs. Plantemoli said that the review letter from the Board Engineer requires a pre-construction meeting. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that such meetings are a normal occurrence. Mr. LaConte added that submission of as-builts are also a regular requirement. He further stated that the waiver for a lot-grading application has also been received. Mr. Fitzpatrick described the inspection process for septic systems and described the Certificate of Compliance process.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the application subject to the conditions in the review memorandum from the Board Engineer. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion.

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

Meeting Open to Public

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

Other Business

Mrs. Plantemoli asked if Mr. LaConte was able to get in touch with he Police Department about a safety program for bicycle helmets in preparation for the new school year. Mrs. Fowler noted that there was a table set up at the National Night Out event. Mr. Hamilton stated that at the last Township Committee it was noted that bicycle helmets are available. Mr. Nikolopoulos suggested having a contest in which students could design public awareness posters and the winner can receive a prize.

Mr. Fitzpatrick advocated for having vaccinations available at back-to-school events. Mr. Hamilton asked about the percentage of vaccinated teachers. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the percentage is not available, but anecdotally it is believed that many teachers have been vaccinated. Mr. Hamilton opined that mandating masks discourages people from getting vaccinated. Mrs. Plantemoli stated that viruses mutate and there is a possibility of breakthrough cases.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary