MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
MARCH 9, 2021

Mrs. Plantemoli called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:33 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 Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Nikolopoulos and Mrs. Plantemoli. Mr. Hamilton arrived a couple minutes late. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Dolan were also present.

Mrs. Gardner and Ms. Taormina were absent

All participation in this meeting was via Zoom.

Minutes

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reports

Public Health Nurse

Mrs. Dolan reported that the Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine has become available, and people are having an easier time making appointments to get vaccines. She also said that the online dashboard with COVID statistics has been updated. Mrs. Dolan also said that the CDC is expected to update travel guidance now that vaccinations are more widely available, and there are concerns regarding upcoming spring breaks. Mrs. Dolan also addressed the number of new cases of COVID, which has gradually been declining.

Mrs. Dolan reported that immunization audits at the local schools are being conducted, and all schools have either been audited or scheduled for their audit.

Mrs. Dolan further reported that there are Ebola concerns with travelers from Congo and Guinea. She discussed the surveillance protocols.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about the number of confirmed cases of COVID listed in Mrs. Dolan's written report. Mrs. Dolan clarified that the 54 cases reported are only for the month of February 2021.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about vaccine programs for homebound individuals.

REHS/Health Officer

Mr. Fitzpatrick discussed endeavors to vaccinate homebound people. He said that Health Officers have worked to make appointments to bring vaccines to those who are homebound, and the Governor's Office has been contacted for permission to have mini-clinics for the homebound. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is preferred for such a program. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he hopes more vaccines will be available from Johnson & Johnson at the end of March.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if there is a system in place to allow those most at risk to get vaccinated first. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the rules are set by the State. He also described the process by which vaccinations are obtained. Mr. Fitzpatrick also said that the criteria set forth from the State for vaccine eligibility may change. He also commented on updated quarantine protocols for those who are vaccinated, and out-of-state travel still requires quarantine. Mr. Nikolopoulos asked if there are any cases of vaccinated people getting COVID. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he is not aware of any cases.

Mr. Fitzpatrick further reported that he has also been in touch with the School District and the Library of the Chathams regarding COVID issues. He also reported that the Health Department has tended to septic inspections and retail food establishment inspections.

Mr. Hamilton said that the Library Board of Trustees has voted to move forward with a conservative plan to reopen the Library of the Chathams to the public, and the plan is subject to the approval of the Health Officer. Mr. Hamilton said that the plan is compliant with CDC guidelines, and asked if there are any issues with the proposal. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the Library should keep a log of who comes in the building and what areas they used. He also said that there can be more than one user of the Library at a time if they are in different sections. Mrs. Plantemoli asked if there is a limit on how many people can be in the Library at one time. Mr. Fitzpatrick said there is a limit of 50% capacity. Mr. Hamilton said the initial reopening will only allow 6 patrons at one time.

Mrs. Fowler asked if there are plans or support for getting teachers vaccinated. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that currently they are on their own, but health officers are advocating for an effort to have teachers get the Johnson & Johnson vaccines in organized groups.

Posting information on the Township's Facebook page was discussed.

Mr. Fitzpatrick reviewed a slideshow prepared by Eric Range with some COVID data. Morris County's rates are slightly higher than the State rates. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that restrictions will likely ease up once more people are vaccinated. He also opined that more people will be willing to get vaccinated once they see that they are safe. It is also possible that there will eventually be booster shots.

Mr. Nikolopoulos suggested that a clinic be a celebrated event similar to how blood drives are often conducted. He also said that he found a company that can do staff screening for employees.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in December 2020:

2 Death Certificates		$15
1 Marriage Licenses		$28
3 Marriage Certificates		$20
	Total	$63

Mr. LaConte reported that there are only two retail food licenses that have not yet been renewed.

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 8:48 PM. Mrs. Gardner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

_____
Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary