MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Mrs. Plantemoli called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:31 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 12, 2022; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 12, 2022; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 12, 2022.

Oath of Office

Mr. Hamilton was sworn in as a member of the Board of Health. The oath was administered by the Township Clerk.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Nikolopoulos, and Mrs. Plantemoli. Board Attorney Mr. Hak and Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick were also present.

Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Gardner were absent.

All participation in this meeting was via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nikolopoulos moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reports

Health Officer Report

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that COVID numbers have gone down but are still high. He commented on how the Cali Score works, and said that some components of the score are trending toward moderate levels. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that with the recent spikes in COVID cases, the number of hospitalizations did not rise in proportion to the number of cases in the community. He also stated that there were not a tremendous number of patients in the ICU or on ventilators, and the recent variants were not as severe as the original two strains.

Mr. Fitzpatrick further reported that food inspections are being conducted, and a septic application will be submitted soon. He also reported that he will reach out to the Township Administrator to coordinate the scheduling of a COVID Vaccine Clinic.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about Madison being on hold for clinics. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that was the case due to holidays and the COVID spike. He also noted that there were two new nurses hired recently who needed to be brough up to speed.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked about a complaint received regarding staff not wearing masks at ShopRite. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the complaint was investigated to see what happened and management was spoken with for education purposes.

Mr. Hamilton asked about the Cali Score and what the ramifications are of the different levels. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that as levels decrease, fewer restrictions are required. He also said that the Public Health Emergency may not be re-declared once the current extension period expires. Mr. Fitzpatrick further noted that natural immunity has shown to be more effective than previously thought, and there may be an opportunity to reduce mandates in a meaningful way as they are less necessary to contain COVID. Mr. Fitzpatrick also commented on infection rates among those who are vaccinated, and said that he does not feel there is a much higher risk among those

who have not received booster shots. He also said that any level of vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization.

Mr. LaConte asked if there is any data about recovery time for those who are vaccinated or previously recovered. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that his anecdotal experience is that those who are unvaccinated or previously infected might have COVID for a slightly longer period of time. He also spoke about his own recovery from COVID.

Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in January 2022:

4 Marriage Licenses		$112
12 Marriage Certificates		$70
	Total	$182

Mr. LaConte further reported that 272 dog licenses have been issued thus far in 2022, which has generated $5720 in fees. Of that amount, $5346 is the Township's share.

Mr; LaConte also reported that most retail food establishments have renewed their licenses, and reminders will be sent to those who have not.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked Mr. Fitzpatrick about a Senior Center weight loss program. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he saw the program is being conducted.

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

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 8:01 PM. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary