

Meeting Minutes: Freehold Township Board of Health

January 12, 2016

Reorganization and Regular Meeting

1) Opening

The January 12, 2016, reorganization and regular meeting of the Freehold Township Board of Health was called to order by Chairwoman Lemesevski at 6:40 PM. Board members present included: Mr. Ammiano, Vice-Chairman Dr. Apolito, Dr. Reilly, Mrs. Porth and Chairwoman Lemesevski. Absent: Ms. Allen, Mr. Chudkowski, Dr. Opatut and Mrs. Weissman. Also present: Margaret Jahn, Health Officer and Julie Kramer, Recording Secretary.

The following statement was read by Chairwoman Lemesevski: "In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law, c.231, P.L. 1975, this meeting was announced by posting a notice on the bulletin board reserved for that purpose; by mailing such notice to the office of the official newspapers of the Township and by filing such notice with the Township Clerk."

2) Minute Approval-October 2015

A motion to approve the October minutes was offered by Dr. Reilly, seconded by Dr. Apolito, and carried by the Board.

3) Activity Reports Approval – October, November and December 2015

A motion to approve the October, November and December 2015 Activity Reports was offered by Mrs. Porth, seconded by Dr. Apolito, and carried by the Board.

4) Correspondence - none

5) Reorganization

Chairwoman Lemesevski offered a motion to keep the board positions as they currently stand: with Mrs. Lemesevski as Chairwoman, Dr. Apolito as Vice Chair and Dr. Reilly as Secretary, the motion was seconded by Dr. Apolito and carried by the Board.

6) Resolution: FT BH 16-1

The Resolution FT BH 16-1 was reviewed by the Board; Mrs. Porth moved to adopt Resolution FT BH 16-1, seconded by Dr. Reilly with the Board voting as follows:

VOTE: AYES: Vice Chair Dr. Apolito, Dr. Reilly, Mrs. Porth, Mr. Ammiano and Chairwoman Lemesevski

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Weissman, Mr. Chudkowski and Dr. Opatut

Discussion

7) State Wide Accreditation – Ms. Jahn reported that the NJSHD had completed their site visit portion of the Accreditation process and are awaiting final approval. The Board reviewed the article provided in the packet “Healthy Momentum – New Jersey is Gaining Ground with Accreditation in Public Health”. Dr. Reilly discussed the numerous positive aspects of Accreditation. The Board discussed the cost (\$20,000 over 5 years) and Dr. Apolito asked Ms. Jahn if there were any grants/funding opportunities. Ms. Jahn reported that the position of the FT Administration is to not pursue Accreditation at this time. Ms. Jahn reported that Bloomfield Health Department was the Beta Test site for the PHAB process. She also reported that MCRHC, Camden Health Department and Mid Bergen Regional Health Commission are actively moving forward and are almost finished with the process. Chairwoman Lemesevski pointed out that further discussion should take place regarding Accreditation to include the entire Board (only 4 members present). She requested further discussion take place at the February meeting and to place Accreditation on the February agenda.

8) New Jersey Health Initiatives

Dr. Reilly lead the discussion regarding the effort of the RWJ Foundation taking the lead in supporting a “culture of health” with a goal of helping New Jersey by providing grant money. The Health Improvement Coalition, of which Ms. Jahn is the Chairwoman, is pursuing a \$250,000.00 grant from the Foundation. Dr. Reilly discussed the current “silo” issue of organizations where they tend to act independently and not as a group. The design of the proposal was to bring these organizations together and create a cohesive approach to provide better access to health care, housing and education for Western Monmouth communities including Englishtown, Freehold Township, Freehold Borough, Howell, Manalapan and Marlboro. The lead agency would be the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). The goal was to have Freehold Borough be a focus town. There was a concern that the Freehold Borough community leaders were not fully on board with being involved in the grant. Ms. Jahn stated that there would be no additional funding required from any of the Western Monmouth communities targeted by the grant. Ms. Jahn stated that the timing of the grant could be an issue for the Borough since they are currently having a problem with the State Board of Education. They might be required to invest significant funding regarding schools and infrastructure. VNA applied for the grant without the support of the community leaders of Freehold Borough.

9) Pertussis

Ms. Jahn updated the Board on the Pertussis cases in the Freehold Township High School. Currently, there are 12 confirmed cases with 4 under investigation. She discussed the problem of physicians

initially misdiagnosing symptoms due to thinking patients were fully immunized against Pertussis. Physicians have not been ordering cultures, which would also help to confirm suspect cases.

10) Animal Shelter

Ms. Jahn updated the Board on the current Animal Shelter that Manalapan Township is trying to contract with. The facility was temporarily shut down after an inspection by Monmouth County. They were not a properly licensed facility. Mr. Valesi and Ms. Jahn are pursuing other options such as purchasing building previously utilized as a veterinarian facility. They are hoping to get other Municipalities involved in a consortium. There is a great need for additional facilities since current facilities are at full capacity and demanding high fees.

11) Dog Park Proposal

Mr. Amminano informed the Board that the Township was entertaining ideas regarding provision of a dog park. They were currently looking into suggestions as to the best place to locate the park. Durand Park was being discussed as an option. Topanemus Park was also brought up as a potential dog park location.

12) No-Smoking Signage Parks

Mrs. Porth asked when the no-smoking signage would be placed in the parks. Mr. Ammiano said he would follow-up on signage with the department. Ms. Jahn was waiting to hear from Recreation regarding the number of signs they would suggest. Also, communication about the new ordinance has been relayed to all groups utilizing the parks.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss and no public comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 was made by Mr. Ammiano, seconded by Dr. Apolito and carried by the Board.

Julie Kramer

Recording Secretary