

Meeting Minutes: Freehold Township Board of Health

July 14, 2016

Opening

1. Call to Order

The July 14, 2016, meeting of the Freehold Township Board of Health was called to order by Vice Chairman Apolito at 6:35 PM. Board members present included: Ms. Allen, Mr. Chudkowski, Ms. Porth, Dr. Reilly, Dr. Opatut, Mr. Ammiano and Vice Chairman Dr. Apolito. Absent: Michele Weissman, Chairwoman Lemesevski and Margaret Jahn, Health Officer. Also present: Julie Kramer, Recording Secretary, and residents Mrs. Davida Verrett, Angelise Verrett (daughter) and Brain Bethea (nephew).

The following statement was read by Vice Chairman Apolito: "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 –May 12, 2016

A motion to approve the May minutes (June meeting cancelled) was offered by Ms. Allen, seconded by Dr. Reilly and carried by the Board.

3. May and June 2016 Activity Reports Approval

A motion to approve the May and June Activity reports was offered by Dr. Reilly, seconded by Ms. Allen and carried by the Board.

4. Correspondence

- NJ Local Boards of Health – Spring 2016 Newsletter:
Dr. Reilly noted a significant amount of information in the newsletter regarding Accreditation. She noted that this seemed to be a goal that was worth investing in. The Board agreed that this was worth the time, effort and investment to pursue.
Mr. Chudkowski noted from the newsletter that there should be some kind of policy or SOP for closing restaurants and giving facility owner's an opportunity to file an appeal through the Board of Health. Mr. Chudkowski would like to know if an SOP exists or if one should be created for this process.
- Letter of Support – VNACJ – Community Health Center (CHC) – FQHC: Dr. Reilly reported that this project has been on-going for many years of which Ms. Jahn has been actively involved and assisting the stakeholders in moving the idea forward. It is very close to becoming a reality with

the development of a strong partnership between CentraState, VNACJ and local leadership from municipalities seeking additional options for residents.

- NJDOH Grant Application – Falls Prevention Program – Mayor’s Wellness: The status on this grant application is pending.

Old Business

5. Request for Waiver: Molly Pitcher Lane – “pet chickens”

Dr. Reilly thanked Mrs. Verrett for providing the additional information regarding her request to have pet chickens in a residential area not zoned for chickens, which are defined as “farm animals” per ordinance. Mrs. Verrett stated that she wanted to provide the Board with any information they needed. She has done significant research regarding this waiver request being mindful of the health and safety of the residents, her family and the pet chickens. She stated that her property was just shy of an acre. In addition to the explanation in the follow-up letter, Mrs. Verrett explained that the chickens will be housed in a tree shaded area. Mr. Chudkowski suggested that the fencing consist of ½ inch stainless steel rather than chicken wire. He stated that stainless steel will be more rust preventive and less penetrable to wildlife. Mr. Chudkowski also suggested that the fence be placed ≥ 1’ deep to prevent wildlife (rodents and predators) access. Mrs. Verrett agreed that this will be done and that she had planned to make it so. Ms. Kramer stated that Ms. Jahn had researched the number of potential eggs to be produced by 4-6 chickens. Ms. Jahn was concerned about the number of eggs (possibly 2/day) and the possibility of interest in distribution/sale of these non-pasteurized eggs to the public. Mrs. Verrett stated that they planned to have different types of chickens. Four of the chickens will produce <50 eggs per year/chicken. The two additional chickens will produce up to 2 eggs/day. She stated that the eggs produced will be for her family (husband eats two eggs daily and she loves to bake) and friends only. She will not be distributing or selling any eggs to the public. She considers this project to be a family hobby. She expects her family to help take care of the chickens. They will keep the coop area clean and well managed. She will use the waste material for her organic gardens and her flower beds. At this time Mrs. Verrett requested that her nephew and daughter be able to speak. They stated that there were many benefits to being allowed to have chickens which included the following: produce fertilizer, tick removal, organic eggs, disease free pets, responsibility of pet ownership, harmless pets, quiet, not a nuisance to neighborhood and a great educational experience.

Dr. Reilly asked what Dr. Opatut’s opinion on this issue was since animals are her specialty. Dr. Opatut thought it was a great idea. At this time the Board felt ready to decide on the waiver status. Ms. Kramer spoke for Ms. Jahn stating that the Health Officer would want to finalize the decision in resolution form. Mrs. Verrett was concerned about timing of final approval since the chickens should be matured enough to handle the winter weather. She would like to purchase the chickens ASAP if approval is granted. Mr. Ammiano stated that a resolution was a good idea and that should be done. The Board stated that the vote could take place to grant the waiver and that the resolution could be the follow-up to clarify the guidelines that have been discussed. Ms. Allen stated that the approval should be granted conditioned

on: fencing compliance, eggs not-for-sale, no > than 6 chickens and no continuation/transfer of waiver to new property owner.

A motion to grant the waiver was offered by Mr. Chudkowski, seconded by Mr. Ammiano with the Board voting as follows:

Roll Call Vote on this Motion:

Mrs. Allen	Aye
Mr. Ammiano	Aye
Dr. Apolito	Aye
Mr. Chudkowski	Aye
Dr. Opatut	Aye
Ms. Porth	Aye
Dr. Reilly	Aye
None	Nay
None	abstain
Mrs. Weissman	absent
Chairwoman Lemesevski	absent

The Board informed Mrs. Verrett that once Ms. Jahn returns from vacation she would be informed as to the approval time line.

Discussion

6. Paul McGuire Quarterly report:

Ms. Allen gave the quarterly report for the Paul McGuire Health Clinic. Ms. Allen noted that there has been a decrease in need compared to 2014 and 2015. She attributes that possibly to the Affordable Care Act.

7. Health Initiatives Grant- Update

Dr. Reilly reported that the grant has been awarded to the Coalition! Now begins the process of training and getting the initial steps underway (kickoff) for the 4-year grant. She reported that there were two grants of the ten awarded to Monmouth County, with the second given to Asbury. Dr. Reilly stated that Freehold Borough's leadership is now more knowledgeable about the project goals. The leadership has been spending time tackling unrelated issues which were taking precedent. Dr. Reilly is happy to report that there is a more cohesive understanding of the project and it is going forward with full support.

8. Zika – Web Site Information (FT, UFT and FB)

The Board reviewed the mosquito information sheet without comment.

Closing

With no further business to discuss and no public comment, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM was made by Dr. Reilly, seconded by Mr. Chudkowski and carried by the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Kramer
Recording Secretary