

**HOPEWELL VALLEY
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Regular Meeting
Minutes**

Monday, May 9, 2011
6:10 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Board of Health Chairman, Kim Johnson.

Notice of this meeting has been posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and Trenton Times (the official newspapers) on December 23, 2010 P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

**Roll Call - Present: Mr. Markulec, Ms. Sandom, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Murphy, Mayor Burd
Also Present: Health Officer, Gary Guarino, Jan Bishop, Chairperson, Advisory Board of Health**

Upon review of the minutes for January 10, 2011 meeting, Mr. Markulec moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Murphy seconded.

The first of order of business was to extend the appointment of Kathy Prassas as Board of Health secretary for the remainder of 2011. (Appointment in January was for 3 months due to budget constraints). Mr. Markulec moved to approve the reappointment of Ms. Prassas, Mayor Burd seconded. Roll was called. PASSED.

The next item on the agenda was review and discussion of the following septic system applications that need waivers or other relief from the board of health. The Advisory Board of Health reviewed the applications at the April 20, 2011 meeting.

The application for review from Kathleen Kainer, Karen Kainer & Carolyn Demouth, Block 43.24 Lot 44, 8 Blue Spruce Drive, Pennington, NJ. was postponed.

The next application listed on the agenda was from Robert & Maria Merrick, Block 69 Lot 53 107 Corrine Drive, Pennington, NJ. Mr. Guarino advised lot #53 is an undersized lot and was never built on due to failure to perc. Mr. Guarino stated there is a concern with the depth of ground water and recorded soil type. NJDEP must determine if this is fresh water wetlands. The lot is less than the 80,000 square feet required for a mound system and less than 50% of the requirement for 2 acres. In addition, it was determined there were issues with elevated Nitrate levels with the potable water supply. Mr. Guarino's recommendation is that the application be denied due to the above mentioned deficiencies and until DEP rules on the wetland issue.

The final application for review was from Michael & Linda Mattei, Block 115 Lot 83, 6 Washington Avenue, Titusville, NJ. Mr. Guarino stated the applicant had inherited

the property which was abandoned in 2003. In 2009, the property was cited as a public health nuisance and the well and septic were sealed. The lot is undersized and below the current requirements for well and septic. Mr. Guarino advised if the property is determined to be an "existing condition" the septic system can be brought into compliance to correct a malfunction. The applicant's engineer presented a draft of the design for well and septic. The engineer advised the soil perc test was great and will accommodate a conventional in ground septic system. The well will be located in the front of the house and the casing of the well will be 100 to 150 placement of the well. The design will meet the criteria of an existing property and improve the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

A motion was made by Mr. Markulec and seconded Mayor Burd that the application may move forward with recommendation to Zoning Board for waiver of lot size reduction requirement.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding the revised 2010 National Association Local Board of Health Profile Survey. Ms. Johnson led discussion about the requirements of mandatory training and the potential of one training seminar per year for Board of Health members.

Board members discussed the feasibility of implementing an autonomous board of appointed individuals to serve on the Board of Health. Ms. Bishop, chairman of the Advisory Board of Health, stated the Advisory Board will take the initiative to research the pros and cons of having a governing board versus an autonomous Board of Health and research what other communities are doing and present findings to the Board. Mr. Guarino advised in the event an autonomous board is implemented, the ordinance must change.

Ms. Sandom expressed concerns if we want to relinquish the governing board's authority concerning specific issues such as septic and well which impact the residents of Hopewell Township.

Mr. Guarino discussed drought issues and recommendation for ad hoc committee and Advisory BOH review. Mr. Guarino noted there are several links on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection website and the New Jersey Geological Service. Mr. Guarino discussed the digital monitoring of wells with regard to stream flow and well depth. Mr. Guarino will gather information regarding setting up an alert system on line to advise residents and businesses of impending drought conditions, restrictions and enforcement protocol. Mr. Guarino anticipates presenting his findings to the Board by the fall of 2011.

Mr. Guarino presented an update on the RWJ foundation/Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership Grant noting our grant is one of eight out of 21 applicants that will receive a site visit vying for the grant of up to \$250,000. Mr. Guarino assisted in coordinating the effort of completing a ten page narrative discussing long range problems that affect everyone's health. The application was carefully worded in an effort to change the fabric of health care in the community and do what is best for all residents. Ms. Bishop stated the extensive assessment of area hospitals will provide an opportunity to bring organizations together to compete and engage in creative collaboration.

Mr. Guarino advised a change of date for the Board meeting from July 11, 2011 to June 13, 2011.

Hopewell Valley Night at Waterfront Park is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2011.

NJ communi-cable April 2011 regarding antibiotics, encourage members to review video clips at the Board meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Markulec moved to adjourn, Mr. Murphy seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Prassas