

January 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Health of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on January 20, 2015.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.
Remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

President of the Board, David Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

This meeting has been advertised in one newspaper, The Daily Record, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

ATTENDANCE: Vera Cheatham, James Glass, Wayne Jacobus, David Holeman.

ABSENT: Veronica Hedgepath, Ismael Lorenzo, Ondria Garcia Montes.

Motion to accept the minutes of October 21, 2014 as received by Vera Cheatham, seconded by James Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed. Wayne Jacobus abstained as he was not a Board member last year.

CORRESPONDENCE:
None

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECT BOARD PRESIDENT - David Holeman as the Mayor said he is the President. Board members agreed.

ELECT BOARD SECRETARY - Motion was to nominate Vera Cheatham as Board Secretary. Motion made by James Glass, seconded by David Holeman and approved on roll call:

Vera Cheatham	Yes
James Glass	Yes
Wayne Jacobus	Yes
David Holeman	Yes

MEETING DATES FOR 2015 - March 17, July 21 and October 20, 2015. These are the third Tuesdays of the month.

Motion on the meeting dates for the year by Wayne Jacobus, seconded by Vera Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

GOLUB ANIMAL CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR 2015 - Everyone has a copy. There is no change in the prices from last year. Wayne Jacobus asked if both these contracts were our monthly fee? Yes. So we are talking \$330.00 per month and then there are extra fees if we have to use the services? Yes.

Motion was made by Vera Cheatham on the Golub Animal Contract, seconded by Wayne Jacobus and approved on roll call:

Vera Cheatham	Yes
James Glass	Yes
Wayne Jacobus	Yes
David Holeman	Yes

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP HEALTH OFFICERS - They are not here at this time. The rest of our meeting has to do with them. The tape was stopped until the meeting starts back again. Tape was started at 7:35 p.m.. Rockaway Township Health Officer just arrived.

Peter Tabbot was here. I have no written report. I will send it early next week. I can tell you that we have done investigations and we had a landlord tenant issue at 53 Polk Avenue. The dumpster area has been in good shape. We watch it routinely. We had a successful flu clinic.

Wayne Jacobus said he received a complaint from a resident regarding either 46 or 48 Victory Court. The Management Company for Victory Highlands installed a waste container for dogs. It appears to be almost in front of this persons door. He has been complaining about the smell. Jaime or someone will get out within 48 hours.

- We had a discussion at our last meeting about the hand sanitizers for Borough Hall. I have been checking on prices for a unit to be put in the front area and then small samples of hand sanitizers to be given out to those that come in the building. I was pricing for Debbe and she would make sure it goes into the budget.

We are all hearing about the flu. How bad is it now? I can tell you it is widespread nationwide. 48 of the 50 states are reporting widespread flu. It is affecting some populations more than others - like the elderly. Numbers are up for children. There is no reason for alarm. People need to remember to wash their hands. We gave out a lot of vaccinations and the flu vaccine was readily available. The flu vaccine is designed to protect against the three most predictable strains. Once the CDC figures out which seems to be the most prevalent, that is what determines the next years flu vaccine. We also had another vaccine that prevails against 4 strains of flu. This provides protection against one additional strain. It is not yet popular with the public.

We are making ourselves available. Me and the two full time nurses in the department. There have been some unfortunate deaths - we get them every year. More with the younger people than usual. We are keeping our eyes on the statistics.

Motion to open the meeting to the public by James Glass, seconded by Vera Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Joan Geelka - How long is the animal contract for? One year. Who's jurisdiction would it fall under for cardboard in someone's back yard? We think it would be property maintenance. Did you hear of something called HRS for flu? Peter said he had not. He said if Joan heard anything else to email him.

Jim Janone - The complaint at the condos did the person complain to the homeowners association? The association is the one that put it there. The Management Company put it there. The Board was not checked. The Board of Health would need the Management Company's name and address. I can give him all that information.

The fees for Golub - what does the contract say we are paying for? That is the monthly service charge. Vera Cheatham read the contract into the minutes. (Copies are available in Clerks Office). Does this sound typical for fees? I think this is a lot of money. Peter Tabbot said they have a full time ACO and three people helping. You can't compare the different towns because everyone is different. We pay sheltering services of approximately \$20,000 a year. Out animal control budget is around \$100,000 a year. For euthanasia we pay considerable more than \$35. Every town has to have ACO services. The three towns I did in West Essex for about 13 years had to pay out \$14,000 in each town and in my last year there it was up to \$20,000 per town. The fees in this contract sound incredibly low. I think it is very reasonable.

I received a complaint that someone saw one of our maintenance men urinating on the fire house. I will bring this up at the Council meeting on Tuesday night.

Valerie Williams - Do we have any community health grants for 2015? There use to be one type of grant that health departments provided to municipalities for public health services that came through the state. That was called the public health priority funding. At one time it was a few million dollars a year spread across the state. Now it is about \$660,000. Under the Christie administration that was removed completely. No one receives funding so therefore there is no grants that go out any longer.

County health departments that service over \$200,000 people have opportunities to receive federal pass through grant funding. There is no community health grants anymore.

Do we ever sit down and go over the needs of Victory Gardens for public health and safety? We do but that has nothing to do with funding. Are we looking at doing another contract? There is considerable time left on the contract we currently have so once the Borough contacts me we will start talking. I think there is two years left on our contract.

I know the County has a ranking. What is Victory Gardens? There is no such thing Peter said. Morris County ranks number 2 in the State. Hunterdon County is number 1. There is no specific data for Victory Gardens. We have tried to find something but there is nothing out there. Morris County Health Officers have come up with NJHealthMatters.org. It is a website that we launched where you can look at 150 different medical and health concerns and see data. There is a lot of information there which tell us about trends.

This is municipal data on health. It is certainly something I would like to see more of. The sources are just not out there.

Have you seen the Emergency Operations Plan and have you done an assessment on what the Board of Health is responsible for? We looked at the plan within the last year. To my knowledge it has been updated. Mr. Flatt is our ACO. He only does domestic animals. Is there any funding to send him to school so he can do wildlife? Peter said to the best of his knowledge according to the laws for New Jersey there is only one law for ACO's. There is not one for domestic and one for wildlife. There is no such thing for wildlife. There are different laws on what we can and can not trap. Fish and Game gives us all that. I don't think that ACO's are allowed to trap foxes, raccoons or other wild life. If an animal is rabid then they can. You are talking about John Cincente and he owns a for profit company. Career Development Institute is his company. He owns it. He provides almost exclusively animal cruelty and animal control. I would rather hear from someone from the State on this and not him.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Vera Cheatham, seconded by James Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by James Glass, seconded by Vera Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:

Vera Cheatham
Secretary

