

Town of Dover
Board of Health, April 12, 2004

The regular monthly meeting of the Dover Board of Health was held in Town Hall, 37 N. Sussex Street, Dover.

Board President Marie Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and announced that the meeting complies with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and has been duly advertised and posted.

President Marie Hoffman called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marie Hoffman, Jean Cater, Constance Sibona-Foster,
Christopher Chapman, Ramiro Gomez

ABSENT: Donna Cook, Karen Vaughan

ALSO PRESENT: Ronald Camacho, Alderman
Donald Costanzo, Health Officer

President Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

A motion to accept the minutes from the March 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was made by Christopher Chapman and duly seconded by Jean Cater.

The normal of order of business was briefly suspended to present Smoke Free Dining Awards to two (2) Dover restaurants in attendance. The Board of Health recognized the following restaurants for their outstanding service to the health of the community by providing a 100% smoke free dining environment:

- Jaime Gutierrez, Su Casa Colombia, 15 N. Sussex Street
- Nancy & Steve Min, West Side Deli, 17 Bassett Hgwy.

The awards were sponsored by the Morris Regional Public Health Partnerships and the Morris County Communities Against Tobacco, and supported by the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Jean Cater mentioned that she is a member of New Jersey GASP, a nonprofit educational organization working for smokefree air for nonsmokers and tobacco-free lives for children. Ms. Cater suggested that the organization be informed of the Dover restaurants recognized for 100% smokefree dining so that they could be included in NJ GASPs smokefree dining guide.

The HO stated that NJ GASP was informed and that the restaurant names were published in their dining guide.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from the NJ Department of Health & Senior Services to the HO dated 3/9/04; Re: Hep B Inoculation Fund Lottery.
2. Letter from the Health Officer to Dr. Carlos Caprioli dated 3/15/04; Re: appreciation for service on the Board of Health.

President Hoffman asked the HO if there was any correspondence of significance.

The HO cited the only piece of correspondence referring to the Hep B Inoculation Fund Lottery. The HO explained that he applied for monies drawn from a state pool of funds to reimburse municipalities for expenses related to Hepatitis B activities. The Town of Dover will receive \$2,146.25

OLD BUSINESS:

The Health Officer (HO) distributed the monthly report to the Board.

Garbage tonnage for March 2004 was 497.48 tons; up from the same month one-year ago by 31.98 tons or 7%.

Garbage sticker receipts for March 2004 were \$3,248.00; up from the same month one-year ago by \$1,093.00 or 51%.

Constance Foster asked the HO how much the penalties were for violating the garbage ordinance.

The HO stated that the fines were \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense, and the third offense requires a court appearance with a minimum fine of \$150. The HO also stated that you could pay the fines like you would a parking ticket without going to court for the first two offenses.

Ms. Foster suggested that the fines be reviewed and possibly increased. The HO stated that the Board of Health could make such a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Aldermen have the authority to amend the garbage ordinance.

After last month's passage of fee ordinance amendments, the health department is now charging amended rates for vital records and food licenses. It will be interesting to see the impact it will have on revenues over the course of the year.

The HO informed Alderman Camacho that he contacted the recycling company recently and spoke to Supervisor Gerald Ratliff about issues relating to covered vehicles to prevent spillage. Mr. Ratliff stated that the MCMUA is currently using 'packer' trucks approx. 90% of the time to collect recyclables. Packer trucks are enclosed which prevents spillage.

Open collection vehicles such as 'Eager Beavers' and 'High Caps' are not used as much anymore. They do not have the volume capacity that the packers do. Also, each truck is equipped with a broom and shovel in the event that spillage occurs.

Constance Foster stated that she still notices plastic recyclables in the streets but is not sure if it is due to residents overloading containers or due to the recycling company spilling material during collection.

Ms. Foster mentioned that she notices a carpet in the gutter or at the curb at the corner of Penn Avenue and most likely Sixth Street. The HO will check it out and have the garbage contractor pick it up.

The HO gave the Board an update on Joann Tyler, the lady who is feeding the homeless at JFK Commons Park. Ms. Tyler has affiliated herself with Morris County Health Start on Thompson Avenue, a recognized licensed kitchen in the Town of Dover. As a result, the Missionaries of God has become a licensed food establishment as well.

Alderman Camacho is in the process of determining a more appropriate location for the Missionaries of God to dispense food and is currently working on a new location.

Jean Cater asked where the new alternate location was. Alderman Camacho stated he would announce the location after the completion of negotiations with the owners of the possible site.

Ms. Cater mentioned the number of food pantries and food related activities designed to serve the homeless in the Town of Dover.

Constance Foster asked if garbage and litter was a problem with the Missionaries of God when dispensing food at JFK Commons Park. The HO stated that they cleanup litter after serving food and that he did not notice a problem during the times that he observed the activity.

NEW BUSINESS:

The HO explained to the Board that department functions relating to garbage, housing and property maintenance have been reorganized since last month's meeting. A copy of the new organization chart was distributed to the Board.

The newly formed "Code Enforcement & Inspections" department will incorporate property maintenance, garbage, and housing related activities under one roof. The new department will be managed and supervised by William Isselin who also serves as the Assistant to the Engineer.

Zory Ryerson, the Sanitation Inspector who worked out of the Health Department and performed garbage and litter related inspections has been transferred to the new Code Enforcement & Inspections Department. Ms. Ryerson has become a "code enforcement officer" and will do property maintenance inspection as well as garbage inspections. Likewise, the other inspectors within the department will become code enforcement officers as well. Their duties will include garbage related inspection activities too.

The intention of the reorganization is to tightly manage interrelated garbage, housing and property maintenance issues and to fully utilize several staff members collectively to efficiently address these concerns.

Constance Foster asked to whom complaints relating to garbage were to be referred. Jean Cater expressed the same concern. Alderman Camacho stated that garbage complaints would now be handled by the Department of Code Enforcement and Inspections which is headed by William Isselin.

Alderman Camacho explained to the Board that the new department:

- Places a code enforcement officer in every ward.
- Improves the rights of entry and inspection.
- Enhances the ability to summons a violator promptly.
- Increases inspectors and department's accountability.

Jean Cater asked if the newly formed department was put in the newspapers. Alderman Camacho responded that the organizational changes would be formally announced to the public and press at tomorrow's April 13th meeting.

Marie Hoffman asked about the part-time code enforcement officers. Alderman Camacho stated that the part-time inspectors worked three (3) days per week and that one of the part-time inspectors focused on multiple dwelling inspections.

The changes to the Dover Health Department are new, as well. The Health Department will now be staffed full-time by the Health Officer, Registrar of Vital Statistics and the Nurse. Since we have engaged the service of a part-time Health Inspector for two (2) days per week to do primarily food inspections, the HO will fill-in any health inspector service gaps.

The HO updated Jean Cater on the matter of 19 Audrey Place and animal cruelty. On March 25th the HO visited the dwelling to find that a pit bull dog was confined in a

locked shed all day with no windows for light. The HO contacted the Animal Control Officer who responded the same day and impounded the dog.

The incident was reported to the NJ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). The SPCA stated they will proceed against the dog owner. The dog is currently impounded until the matter is resolved. At the very least, the animal will not be returned to the dog owner without demonstration that the animal will be properly housed and cared for.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO BOARD MEMBERS WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.

Constance Foster asked if the Health Department issued handicapped parking permits. Although the department does not issue this type of permit, a general discussion about how such a permit can be obtained was raised. Sandra Scarneo from the general public explained how a person can obtain a handicapped parking permit.

In another matter, Ms. Foster expressed concern that residents with garbage cans are depositing multiple bags on top of the containers which drives up disposal costs. Ms. Foster suggested a ward by ward, street by street notification blitz educating residents of the garbage rules and regulations.

Marie Hoffman responded that the new Code Enforcement Department will have to do that. Alderman Ron Camacho stated that the new department will do this type of activity.

Constance Foster asked what typed of activities the Board of Health will focus on now that garbage issues have be placed under the purview of another department. This led to a general discussion of Board functions.

Ms. Foster asked about animal control and if there was an ordinance limiting the number of dogs that can be kept by a resident. The HO stated that the number of cats was limited to five (5). However, there was no set limit on dogs.

Ms. Foster felt that limiting the number of dogs was a worthy endeavor and that it was something the Board could work on. The HO explained that the Board could investigate an ordinance limiting the number of dogs and recommend to the Board of Alderman that the animal ordinance be amended accordingly.

PRESIDENT MARIE HOFFMAN OPENED THE MEETING TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS

Sandra Scarneo of 66 First Street introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Scarneo expressed concern about the dumpster serving the old 'Stone Academy' building at 25-27 East

Dickerson Street. The dumpster is no longer properly enclosed and it is often overflowing.

The HO will inform the Code Enforcement Department of the problem.

Also, Ms. Scarneo mentioned that uncollected garbage from the Byram Avenue Townhouses is occasionally removed from the curb and brought back onto the grass and left there creating an unsightly condition. The HO said he would have the code enforcement officer check out the complaint.

In another matter, Ms. Scarneo stated that on windy days, garbage bags blow around and scatter creating unsightly conditions. Ms. Scarneo suggested that the town consider the requirement that all garbage be placed at the curb in solid containers with covers, and that the containers be standardized and provided by the Town. This would prevent this type of unsightly condition.

Other communities that manage this type of garbage container system are the Bergen County municipalities of Fairview and Cliffside Park. When Sandra served on the Board of Health this type of program was investigated. Ms. Scarneo suggested that the file be reopened and reviewed again for consideration.

Alderman Camacho responded by stating that the Board of Aldermen have discussed the issue and that the cost of purchasing containers was a concern of the Board.

Upon completion of the public portion of the meeting, President Hoffman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. **A motion to adjourn the meeting** was made by Constance Foster and seconded by Marie Hoffman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED