

**Town of Dover**  
**Board of Health, February 9, 2009**

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 roll.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Marie Hoffman, Constance Sibona-Foster, Irene Hansen,  
Christine Noriega, Sandra Scarneo

**ABSENT:** Donna Cook, Christopher Chapman

**ALSO PRESENT:** Carolyn Blackman, Alderman  
Donald Costanzo, Health Officer

President Marie Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January, 2009, Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Health.

**A motion to accept the minutes from the January 2009 Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Health** was made by Connie Foster, and duly seconded by Irene Hansen.

**ALL AYES; NO NAYS**

President Marie Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January, 2009, regular meeting of the Board of Health.

**A motion to accept the minutes from the January 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health** was made by Irene Hansen, and duly seconded by Marie Hoffman.

**ALL AYES; NO NAYS**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Letter from Randolph to the HO dated 1/2/09; re: animal control agreement.
2. Letter from EHA Consulting Group, Inc. to the HO dated 1/12/09; re: recruitment solicitation.
3. Letter from Highmark Medicare Services to the HO dated 1/17/09; re: reactivation application approval.
4. Letter from Chilton Memorial Hospital to the HO dated 1/20/09; re: executed agreement.
5. Letter from Chilton Memorial Hospital to the HO dated 1/20/09; re: health education annual report.

President Marie Hoffman asked if there was any significant correspondence. The HO referenced the Highmark Medicare Service's letter and stated that the health department was deactivated by Medicare as an infrequent user for influenza vaccinations. The HO explained the lengthy reactivation process. The health department's reactivation application was ultimately approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The HO distributed to the board copies of the annual schedule of meetings and roster of current members.

Copies of the monthly report were distributed to the board for review.

At last month's meeting Sandra Scarneo asked the HO what the court outcomes were for the food establishments issued summons for failing to attend the food handler's course. The HO stated that he checked with the court clerk's office and was told the defendants were fined \$100.00.

The HO mentioned that in 2008, the health department generated approximately \$22,000 in revenues from the sale of food & drink licenses, and pointed out that it more than paid for the part-time health inspector at an annual cost of \$15,000. This resulted in a discussion of staffing led by Sandra Scarneo who commented on the justification for additional part-time help to perform inspections.

Sandra Scarneo also raised the subject of restaurant inspections in New York City. A recent newscast showed health inspectors using a grading system as part of their sanitary inspections. Posted inspection results were displayed as an A, B, C, D etc. Ms. Scarneo commented on the more detailed, informative nature of the grading system in New York and compared it to New Jersey's program.

The HO was asked if Dover could adopt such a grading system. The HO responded that the State of New Jersey regulates retail food establishment inspections and preempts local authority. However, this does not preclude a local board of health from sending comments, suggestions or recommendations to the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services. The board concluded by requesting the HO research New York's food inspection program and report back to the board at next month's meeting.

The HO informed the board that flowers were sent to Donna Cook on behalf of the Board of Health. The HO received a thank you phone call from Bill Cook who stated that Donna was improving and that she appreciated the flowers very much...and that she enjoys very much hearing from people.

The HO reported to the board that he recently heard that the Saint Clare's Mobile Medical Van was no longer going to be funded as part of the hospital's cost saving measures. He will check with the hospital to confirm.

On-going reports of influenza activity from the State's surveillance program indicate little influenza levels throughout New Jersey. This is based on surveillance of hospital emergency departments, school absenteeism, and long term care facilities.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The HO sent letters to Assemblymen Michael Carroll and Richard Merkt opposing Assembly Bill 3686 transferring the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to the Department of Human Services. The general consensus is the transfer will cause the severe reduction of funding for Municipal Alliances.

In response to Irene Hansen's previous email regarding bats, the HO mentioned the increased occurrences of bat related problems that have received regional attention. A disease affecting bats called "white nose syndrome" is causing hibernating bats to wake up and forage for food. Because there isn't food in the winter, they die quickly from starvation.

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

Sandra Scarneo stated that she recently attended a Board of Aldermen meeting at which Alderman Carolyn Blackman gave a very positive report praising the health department and the Board of Health. However, Alderman Frank Poolas criticized the health department's licensing of vending machines.

This led to a lengthy discussion about the licensing of vending machines. Connie Foster suggested that the health inspector look for food vending machines when making his inspections. The HO agreed and will remind the inspector to include this activity as part of his inspections.

The discussion of vending machines concluded with Ms. Foster requesting the HO to ask Alderman Poolas to come to the board's next meeting. The board directed the HO to convey to Mr. Poolas its desire to work with him on this matter. If Mr. Poolas is able to attend the next meeting, the HO was also directed to ask him to bring any findings that he may have.

**THE MEETING WAS OPENED TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC  
WHO WISHED TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR ISSUE.**

No members of the general public were present.

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

**ALL AYES; NO NAYS**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**