

Town of Dover
Board of Health, April 9, 2007

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.

Marie Hoffman, Board President, called the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Marie Hoffman, Constance Sibona-Foster, Irene Hansen,
Carolyn Blackman, Sandra Scarneo, Christopher Chapman

ABSENT: Donna Cook

ALSO PRESENT: Patrick Donofrio, Alderman
Donald Costanzo, Health Officer

President Marie Hoffman called for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health.

A motion to accept the minutes from the March 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health was made by Irene Hansen and duly seconded by Sandra Scarneo.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter from Linda Ann Wells, St. John's North Porch Women and Infant's Center to the HO dated 3/15/07; re: referral agreement.
2. Letter from the NJDHSS to the HO dated 3/15/07; re: notice of approval for Public Health Priority Funding Grant.
3. Letters from the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission to the Dover Health Department dated 4/3/07; re: Sacred Heart Church summer camp program for children.

President Hoffman asked if there was any correspondence to discuss. The HO briefly mentioned the formal notice of approval for the Public Health Priority Funding grant in the amount of \$11,134.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Health Officer (HO) distributed the summary of Health Department activities for the past month and distributed meeting schedules and contact lists to members of the board.

At last month's meeting the HO stated that the only restaurant that did not attend the food handler's course was the Dover Grill. The HO informed the board that the Dover Grill came to a special food handling class in March and satisfactorily completed the class.

An Influenza Surveillance report from the NJDHSS included with the monthly report indicates that the incidence of flu continues to be regional and sporadic. The flu season is almost over.

Sandra Scarneo stated that she had recently read or heard in the news about influenza vaccine that was upsetting. Millions of doses of flu vaccine that had expired and could not be used were destroyed. Even though the vaccine was still considered effective, it had to be discarded because of its expiration date. Ms. Scarneo asked the HO if we were able to get a credit for any unused flu vaccine or if we had to discard or destroy any vaccine.

The HO explained that we were very lucky to use all of the vaccine we purchased and that a late, partial shipment of vaccine was cancelled. We did not have to pay for the cancelled order.

Regarding the "Dedication by Rider Resolution" to create a trust account for funds received for flu vaccinations that was passed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and sent to the state, no word has been received as to its status.

The HO gave the board an update of the construction of the health department improvements. Although the vault has been completed, remaining construction has been put on hold until such time that the public works department is less busy.

When the time comes for painting the nurse's office, the HO will approach Connie Foster to ask for help. Ms. Foster is currently overseeing the painting of the library and could possibly coordinate free labor to paint the health department using the same labor pool. The HO mentioned to Ms. Foster that the police department had stepped-up its patrolling of the library.

At its March 12, 2007 regular meeting, the Board of Health introduced and passed on first reading an ordinance amending Dover's local retail food establishment code to make the code consistent with the new Chapter 24 of the New Jersey State Sanitary Code titled "Sanitation in Retail Food Establishments and Food and Beverage Vending Machines." The ordinance was published in *The Citizen* newspaper on March 21, 2007.

A motion to pass an ordinance of the Board of Health of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and the State of New Jersey amending Chapter 407, FOOD-HANDLING ESTABLISHMENTS, RETAIL, Article I, of the Code of the Town of Dover on second reading was made by Christopher Chapman and duly seconded by Marie Hoffman.

**ROLL CALL VOTE
ALL AYES; NO NAYS**

NEW BUSINESS:

The Health Officer distributed several copies of the completed year 2006 annual report for review. The HO asked the board for its consideration in approving the annual report so that it can be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services.

Alderman Donofrio commented that at a league meeting he had attended, a DCA representative talked about DCA emphasis placed on lead testing. Alderman Donofrio asked if the lead testing identified in the health department's annual report was tied into the DCA lead screening initiative.

The HO explained the local health department's lead screening and lead risk assessment protocols which follow DCA guidelines. A brief general discussion of lead poisoning prevention followed.

Following review of the report and general discussion, **a motion to approve the year 2006 annual report** was made by Marie Hoffman, and duly seconded by Carolyn Blackman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

The HO stated that the West Nile Virus season and the corresponding testing of bird specimens begins on April 16th.

Connie Foster raised the subject of standing water in old tires as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and asked the HO to be vigilant about this type of nuisance, particularly in gas stations and businesses where large numbers of tires accumulate.

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

Connie Foster noted in the correspondence a brochure for a 2nd Annual Leaders Academy conference on May 18th covering a host of healthy community initiatives and mini-grants to support the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

The HO stated he was not planning on attending and expanded on the Mayor's Wellness Campaign which is an initiative that is currently in the planning stages in Dover. A planning committee for the campaign is currently heading by the Mayor and the Administrator. The emphasis of programming is physical activity with the overall goal of reducing obesity and improving health.

This prompted a lengthy discussion on exercise, physical fitness and health. Sandra Scarneo gave an example of physical inactivity in younger people citing the extensive use of computers, hours of television viewing, text messaging, computer gaming, etc. Ms. Scarneo made the point of how important it is to get children involved with sports and sport related activities.

The Board discussed a walking program as part of a wellness initiative and expressed interest in participating in this type of activity.

Connie Foster and Sandra Scarneo raised questions about food safety and retail food inspections and enforcement protocols. Concern was expressed regarding restaurants that repeatedly violate the sanitary code and, therefore, operate with the same deficiencies, particularly serious violations, year after year. This would indicate that there is something fundamentally wrong with the establishment and, under such circumstances summons should be issued.

This led to a general discussion of violations typically cited in food establishments and those that are serious versus those that are not as well as the number of re-inspections that are normally conducted.

The HO stated that it is unusual to do more than one re-inspection and that if a food establishment didn't correct cited deficiencies, a summons would be issued. Generally, restaurants do what they are told by the health inspector. However, there are no hard and fast rules as to the number of re-inspections, summons and court actions. It is a matter of training, experience and the sound judgment of the health inspector.

A brief overview of the part-time hours of the health inspector and the nature of file keeping and inspection records was discussed by the Board concluding with emphasis placed on continued training on the newly enacted state sanitary code and vigilance regarding of local food establishments that repeatedly violate the code

Sandra Scarneo gave an update regarding issues relating to garbage inspection procedures and response times that she raised at last month's meeting. Ms. Scarneo reported that Bill Isselin, Code Enforcement, contacted her and explained that code enforcement will try to respond to a complaint the same day depending on the availability of an inspector. Normally, warning notices must first be issued before a summons is signed.

To improve customer service, Ms. Scarneo also suggested that workers in town hall be aware of whom to direct calls to when someone asks for assistance or has a complaint.

**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 Connie Foster and seconded by Marie Hoffman.

ALL AYES; NO NAYS

MEETING ADJOURNED