

**MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM
JUNE 9, 2020**

Mrs. Plantemoli called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:38 P.M.

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Board of Health was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to both the *Chatham Courier* and the *Morris County Daily Record* on January 15, 2020; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 15, 2020; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 15, 2020.

Roll Call

Answering present to the roll call were Mrs. Ewald, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Nikolopoulos, Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Plantemoli. Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Dolan were also present. Ms. Taormina was absent.

Participation in this meeting was provided to the Board members and the public via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Ewald seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Pending Septic Applications

580 River Road – Block 62 Lot 56

Mr. Frank Francese, the applicant, and his engineer, Tyler VanderValk, PE, were present

Mr. LaConte reported to the Board that a septic permit approval was granted by the Board of Health to the applicant in 2018, and the current application is a modification to the prior approval.

Mr. VanderValk presented the revised design engineering plan. He stated that the revisions are in response to conditions set by the Board of Adjustment in the variance approval process. Mr. VanderValk addressed compliance with the setback requirements for septic systems. He also said that the proposed house will have a basement, which is treated as a slab in this instance as the basement floor will be above the level of infiltration.

Mr. Fitzpatrick concurred that there will not be any infiltration due to the variance in height.

Mrs. Fowler asked what is on the property at this time. Mr. VanderValk said that currently there is only a garage structure and an old driveway on an otherwise vacant lot.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked if the septic system will be built prior to or in tandem with the building of the house. Mr. VanderValk said that remainder of the project has been approved by the Board of Adjustment, and the approval for the amendment to the septic design is all that is needed.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he does not have any reservations regarding the amended design.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to approve the Septic Application for 580 River Road. Mrs. Fowler seconded the application.

Roll call: Mrs. Ewald, Aye; Mrs. Fowler, Aye; Mr. Nikolopoulos, Aye; Mrs. Gardner, Aye; Mrs. Plantemoli, Aye.

Reports

Public Health Nurse

Mrs. Dolan reported that the past few months have been busy for the Health Department. She said that the COVID curve has flattened, and some businesses are close to reopening. Mr. Fitzpatrick complimented Mrs. Dolan for the work that she has been doing, and he discussed the challenges of contact tracing.

Mrs. Dolan reported that the Health Department remained open despite most municipal offices having closed. She said that calls were received about vaccination schedules. Mrs. Dolan said that she does have vaccinations available, and she said that the State has issued guidance about reopening clinics.

Mrs. Dolan further reported that she had submitted the paperwork for the Influenza Honor Roll, which was awarded to Chatham Township.

Mrs. Dolan addressed the COVID-19 Pandemic, and described the guidance that was provided to families when individuals tested positive. Mrs. Dolan reported on the number of cases, noting that most of the cases and deaths for Chatham Township were in Long Term Care facilities. Testing for COVID is still ongoing, especially in LTC facilities. The Office of Emergency Management makes deliveries of Personal Protective Equipment to LTC facilities. Mrs. Dolan thanked the Front-Line Support Group that provided meals to the Health Department.

Mr. Nikolopoulos asked about availability of PPE for First Responders. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that there were issues at first, but supplies have been sorted out. Mr. LaConte reported that the Emergency Squad and Police Department both have UV devices used to disinfect emergency vehicles.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked if the Health Department is seeing any of the pediatric PIMS cases. Mrs. Dolan said that there have not been any cases, and she does not know how they will be reported. She also said that most of the cases are no longer active. Mrs. Plantemoli asked about LTC Facilities opening up for visitation. Mrs. Dolan said she has not yet heard when they will open to visitation. She said that she was on a conference call when Senior Centers were discussed, and it is not known when they will open yet either. Mrs. Ewald commented on reopening of libraries, and they are starting to offer book pickup services. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that some basic guidelines such as wearing of masks will likely remain in effect for several weeks once libraries reopen. He also commented on reopening of public pools.

Mrs. Plantemoli asked if there is any anticipated spike in COVID cases from the recent protests around the country. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that at the peaceful protests in New Jersey, people have generally been wearing masks. He said there may be a bump in cases, but he does not think there will be a spike in the numbers.

Mr. Nikolopoulos said it is surprising how many business owners do not know what steps to take to keep people safe and help them feel comfortable. He asked if resources could be made available to help small business owners. Mrs. Ewald commented on resources that are available and said she will see how to better reach out to local businesses. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that guidance from the State will be distributed to local businesses. He also noted his experience as a former small business owner, and said that he has also recently visited municipal buildings and restaurants to assist them with reopening plans. Mrs. Dolan added that infectious disease control policies will also be reviewed.

REHS/Health Officer

Mr. Fitzpatrick provided information on training that the REHS Inspectors have received to assist in the COVID-19 response. Mr. LaConte added that the pool inspection process has begun.

Mrs. Fowler asked what the Board of Health's role should be regarding pandemic response. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the Board of Health is a policy-setting Board and can work to support the

efforts of the Health Department and Office of Emergency Management to address the matter. Mrs. Plantemoli added that she has been included in OEM meetings and conference calls.

Registrar of Vital Statistics

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in March 2020:

2 Marriage Licenses	\$56
1 Marriage Certificate	<u>\$10</u>
Total	\$66

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in April 2020:

3 Marriage Licenses	\$84
4 Marriage Certificates	\$30
4 Death Certificates	<u>\$30</u>
Total	\$144

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in May 2020:

3 Marriage License	\$84
1 Marriage Certificate	<u>\$10</u>
Total	\$94

Mr. LaConte described the process for accepting marriage license applications while the Municipal Building is closed due to COVID-19. He also said that the Governor issued an Executive Order waiving the waiting period for issuance of a marriage license and extending the validity period to 90-days. Mr. LaConte further reminded the Board that the fee for a marriage license is \$28 as set by statute, and of that fee \$25 per license fee is sent to the State on a quarterly basis.

Mrs. Fowler asked about the issuance of dog licenses. Mr. LaConte said that the highest rate of issuance is in January and February when existing licenses are being renewed, and there will be a smaller number issued during the remainder of the year when residents buy new dogs.

Mr. LaConte also reported that most retail food establishments have renewed their licenses.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to accept the reports. Mr. Nikolopoulos seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Meeting Open to Public

Mrs. Plantemoli opened the meeting to the public.

1. John Carini, 7 Susan Drive, said that noise from leaf blowers have made it difficult to work from home during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He further noted that the particles spread around by leaf blowers can damage lungs. Mr. Carini said that technology has advanced far enough that leaf blowers can be mitigated, and he asked the Board to consider addressing the noise issue.

Mrs. Plantemoli noted that the Board Attorney provided some information regarding actions taken by other municipalities. Mr. LaConte said that the Board discussed the issue a few years ago, and the Board can discuss the topic again. Mr. LaConte also agreed with Mr. Carini that the noise from lawn equipment is a nuisance, and he would prefer the Board have Mr. Fitzpatrick in attendance to address enforcement of noise ordinances when further discussing potential measures.

Mr. Carini compared leaf blowers to cars without mufflers, and he would like to see modern technology used to mitigate the noise nuisance from lawn equipment. He did acknowledge that there is a cost involved to make such changes. Mr. Carini also asked why leaf blowers are used year-round rather than only in the Spring and Fall. Mrs. Plantemoli asked about the enforcement mechanism for the towns where leaf blowers are only allowed in certain months. Mr. Carinci said he did not know how the rule is enforced. As to how landscapers were informed what equipment was compliant in some towns, Mr. Carinci said that lists of compliant brands were posted on municipal websites. Mr. LaConte said that the Tree Protection Ordinance requires contractors to register with the Township and sign an acknowledgement that they have read and understand the Ordinance. He said that perhaps a similar mechanism could be used with landscapers. Mr. Nikolopoulos suggested that perhaps reaching out to landscapers and asking them to reduce equipment RPMs would be less intrusive than adopting an ordinance. Mr. Carinci suggested that perhaps different zones could be set up in the Township to schedule which days landscapers could work in that zone. Mr. LaConte noted that the Township Committee adopted an ordinance several years ago that prohibits contractors on Sundays, and an ordinance like what Mr. Carinci suggested could be considered. Mrs. Fowler said that could overwhelm a neighborhood on its scheduled day. Mr. Nikolopoulos suggested that a landscaper be invited to discuss this matter with the Board of Health. Mrs. Plantemoli suggested that this topic be revisited at the next meeting with the Board Attorney and the Health Officer present.

Seeing no further comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to adjourn at 9:13 PM. Mrs. Gardner seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Gregory J. LaConte
Board of Health Secretary