

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM  
JULY 7, 2022**

Mrs. Plantemoli called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:33 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 12, 2022 and July 7, 2022; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 12, 2022 and July 7, 2022; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 12, 2022 and July 7, 2022.

**Roll Call**

Answering present to the roll call were Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Nikolopoulos and Mrs. Plantemoli. Board Attorney Mr. Hak and Health Officer Mike Fitzpatrick were also present.

Mr. Hamilton and Mrs. Gardner were absent.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Plantemoli had a correction to the May 5<sup>th</sup> minutes.

Mrs. Fowler moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2022 meeting as amended. Mr. Nikolopoulos seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Reports**

**Health Officer Report**

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that Covid cases are up but are not at a high level. Mrs. Fowler asked if home tests are reported. Mr. Fitzpatrick said they are not normally reported. He also stated that the number of hospitalizations and deaths are still low. Mr. Fitzpatrick further reported that the Covid vaccine is now available to children under 5. Mrs. Plantemoli asked if it will be a mandatory vaccine. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he is not presently aware of any efforts to make it mandatory.

Mr. Fitzpatrick addressed monkey pox, and said there are very few cases. The State is providing a small amount of vaccine, as monkey pox is not anticipated to spread heavily. A septic inspection was performed recently, and regular inspections are being conducted. Tests results from pools are also being monitored.

Mr. Nikolopoulos moved to accept the report. Mrs. Fowler seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Registrar of Vital Statistics/Board of Health Secretary**

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in February 2022:

4 Marriage Licenses	\$112
5 Marriage Certificates	\$35
2 Death Certificates	<u>\$20</u>
Total	\$167

Mr. LaConte reported that fees were collected for the following items in March 2022:

4 Marriage Licenses	\$112
15 Death Certificates	<u>\$90</u>
Total	\$202

Mr. LaConte reported that for the second quarter of 2022, the State's share of marriage license fees was \$250.00. He also noted that effective July 1, 2022 the State has directed that marriage license fees are waived.

Mr. LaConte further reported that Chatham Cinema has reopened and have obtained a retail food license for the snack bar.

Mr. LaConte further reported that there was a Covid outbreak in the Municipal Building in early May.

Mrs. Fowler moved to accept the report. Mr. Nikolopoulos seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **Discussion**

Mrs. Plantemoli asked if any feedback has been received about lantern flies. Mr. LaConte said he received a phone call recently asking for guidance. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he has information available, and vinegar can be used as a pesticide. Mrs. Plantemoli asked if vinegar is bad for plants. Mr. Fitzpatrick said the amount needed to address lantern flies is not enough to harm plants. Mrs. Plantemoli asked if the Township will be doing any treatments. Mr. Fitzpatrick said the State has not approved any treatments.

Mrs. Fowler asked about consideration by the Township Committee for a change in policy to move from organic field maintenance to conventional field maintenance, and asked if the Board of Health should weigh in on the topic. Mr. LaConte stated that the Township Code Book currently prohibits use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. He also described the process for changing an ordinance and said that if action is taken by the Township Committee, he will send the draft to the Board of Health. Mr. Fitzpatrick commented on the safety of using manure and said that any dangerous pathogens are inactive.

Mrs. Fowler asked if the Board could ask the Police Department about opportunities to address the gun epidemic from a public health standpoint. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that gun violence is both a police issue and a mental health issue. Mr. Nikolopoulos commented on the general fear of dealing with mental health issues and said that people need to be more willing to address such issues. He also said that addressing mental health issues will solve several other problems, as violence can take many forms. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he will check to see if the Health Educator has any material available on the issue.

Mrs. Fowler asked about the Mayor's Wellness Committee and if the Township participates. Mr. LaConte said that Committeewoman Ewald is the liaison to the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and related groups. Committeewoman Ewald will be invited to attend the next Board of Health meeting to discuss her work with those committees.

### **Meeting Open to Public**

Mrs. Plantemoli opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mrs. Plantemoli moved to adjourn at 7:59 PM. Mr. Hamilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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Gregory J. LaConte  
Board of Health Secretary