

BOROUGH OF WOODCLIFF LAKE

**BOARD OF HEALTH
January 15, 2008
REORGANIZATION MEETING –
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting was called to order by President Elaine Metlitz, at 7:45 pm, according to the Open Public Meetings Act. Mayor LaPaglia asked if he could do the swearing in and renew those members whose terms had expired, prior to the actual start of the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Elaine Metlitz
Dr. Gerhard Haas
Dr. Steven Sperber
John Frey
Janet Levine
Christine LaPaglia, D.C.
Secretary Fariba Negahban
Sanitarian Linda Quinn
Councilwoman, Josephine Higgins

Absent:

Dr. Mary Clark

The Mayor said that he would like to swear in Janet Levine, whose term had ended as of December 31, 2007. Dr. Clark whose term had also ended was absent, and would have to be sworn in at the next meeting in February. The Mayor also announced that Josephine Higgins was the new Council Liaison for the Board of Health in 2008, and said that she would be a great addition to the Board based on her professional training as a nurse and her experience. Elaine welcomed Josephine to the Board of Health, and said the Board was very glad to have her as their representative.

Elaine Metlitz vacated the Chair as President, and asked for nominations for President, Vice President and Secretary for 2008. Dr. Sperber nominated Elaine for President, and Dr. Haas for Vice President, seconded by Janet Levine. There were no oppositions. Fariba Negahban was nominated for Secretary. Elaine said that after having reviewed the meeting dates for 2008, everything

looked fine and there were no conflicts with holidays or otherwise. There were no objections to the appointment of Board Veterinarian, Dr. Dyan Muller, or the designation of 2008 publications.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the month of December were reviewed. Dr. Haas had a correction on page 3 to change the wording of expired to transpired or happened. There was a motion made and seconded to accept the minutes for December.

WATER REPORTS:

The Mayor asked if he could address the Board. He mentioned that at the previous month's meeting, there was discussion in reference to the Park Ridge Water Company, and the reports issued by them.

Mayor LaPaglia said he spoke with the Borough Administrator in Park Ridge, and asked about the E-Coli results in the Water samples last month. The Administrator told Mayor LaPaglia, that if there are any problems, such as finding of E-coli, there will be follow-up tests based on State Regulations, until the matter is resolved and new reports will be sent. The Mayor said he was reassured that steps will be taken for additional tests and correction of the situation, however the Water Company might have been lax in submitting the new test results and/or explaining them in detail.

Dr. Sperber said that the Water Company did send some further correspondence regarding the above matter to the State. The problem remains as far as the timely receipt of the communication by the Board of Health. Dr. Haas mentioned previous Arsenic levels in the Water test results that were not explained. Linda Quinn added that if results are below the standards required by the State, the Water Company is not required to analyze or address them.

Elaine asked if the Board would like to invite Bill Beattie, the Director at Park Ridge Water Company to the meeting in March to answer any questions or explain any of the Water report results. Fariba will contact Mr. Beattie to check on his availability.

The Board also discussed the communication received from the State of New Jersey, in reference to Private Potable Well Water Analyses on Chestnut Ridge Road. They wanted to know why certain houses were chosen for testing. The Board asked Fariba to call the person in charge at the State, who sent the correspondence and find out the information.

OLD BUSINESS:

Next Elaine asked the Mayor if he would share with the Board the contents of a letter written by the Mayors' Association to the Governor in reference to the Pascack Valley Hospital in Westwood. The Mayor said that all 10 towns in the Pascack Valley would like the Hospital to be reopened, and are doing everything possible to communicate the need. First of all, everyone is worried about the increased risk to residents in need of emergency services, who are being diverted to hospitals further away, since the closer by hospitals are full and will not accept any more patients. The second problem is the toll being taken on volunteers, and EMT workers who have to wait longer to process the paperwork, and find beds for patients, which further causes a shortage of ambulances. The Mayor added that there are a number of organizations interested at this point to buy the Hospital. At present, the Hospital has filed for Bankruptcy, and they are now in a Federal Court before a Bankruptcy judge. Some of the area hospitals are interested in possibly purchasing the hospital, including Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, which is trying to eliminate competition. Even though Valley Hospital has expansion plans, they are opposed to taking over the Hospital in Westwood which offers them a much larger facility, since they would like to keep everything in Ridgewood. The Governor's position is that there is a surplus of beds in the State, and they cannot intervene unless the problem is an urban area, where there is a significant portion of uninsured patients. In the case of Pascack Valley Hospital in Westwood, about 90% of the patients had insurance and the Hospital had a high reimbursement rate; as a result the State is not in a position to help them financially. The Mayor commented that unfortunately, the State may be forced to do something when people start dying on the way to the emergency room, because of being diverted, and there will then be more political pressure.

John Frey asked what the Governor could do. The Mayor responded that by executive order the Governor could allow groups of interested physicians to make bids for purchasing the Hospital. At this point in time he does not feel the State is focusing on this particular issue.

SANITARIAN'S REPORT:

Dr. Haas asked about all the inspections on 12/04/07. Linda explained that initially those establishments probably did not have any major violations, and upon re-inspection they were satisfactory. Dr. Haas asked about the A & P sample being high on 12/19. Linda said that the coliform was a little higher than normal in one of the samples, but not exceedingly high. Elaine asked about the Hallmark Store at Tice's Corner. Linda said since they sell chocolates and pre-packaged food items such as cookie mixes, they are required to label and package them properly and have to obtain a food operator's license. Their operation would be similar to Platypus, William Sonoma, and the Hilton Gift shop.

Janet Levine asked about the status of Sunrise Assisted Living. Linda said that they seem to be much improved and at present they had no violations. Janet also asked about Panera Bread. Linda said she went back and took some food samples which were fine, and did a spot check. There is always a lot of employee turnover at Panera Bread and some confusion as far as procedures they need to be following.

Christine LaPaglia asked about the visit to 3 Chestnut Ridge Road on 12/21. Linda explained that it is a third location for KPMG, which is actually located in Montvale. Fariba added that this was an error from last year, when we had licensed their vending machines. KPMG only has two locations in Woodcliff Lake, with 5 vending machines in total. Linda was doing a physical inspection to double check on the locations. Dr. Sperber asked a question about the Mobile Ice Unit code on 12/04/07. Linda said that by State law when an establishment has an ice machine, it has to be self-draining, so that there is no accumulation of bacteria at the bottom. Panera Bread had to be told to drain the ice machine to keep it clean and free of bacteria.

Elaine asked about buffet style cafeterias in town, and how the bacteria may pass from one person to another by using the same serving utensils. She mentioned that on cruises now, passengers are asked to use a hand sanitizer before meals, and perhaps it would be a good idea for restaurants to do the same, especially when they have a salad bar or serving customers buffet style. There were no further questions for the Sanitarian.

There was a motion made and accepted to approve the December 2007 Sanitarian's report.

CASH RECEIPTS REPORT:

The Cash Receipts report for December was reviewed. There was no activity for the month. Fariba said that there will be money received next month, since all food establishments have until January 31st to renew their licenses for 2008. There was a motion made and accepted to approve the Cash Receipts report.

NEW BUSINESS:

At this point in the meeting Elaine asked resident Nancy Triggiani-Musco of 54 Pinecrest Drive, who had been waiting, to address the Board. She started by introducing herself and telling the Board about the impact of the pollution caused by landscape services and leaf blowers in town. She referred to the article she had written on the same subject, a copy of which was distributed to the members of the Board of Health. She mentioned that she sent a copy of the Article to the Governor's office, and received a response saying the State recognizes the problem. However they are limited by the Federal government,

which is the only body able to regulate engines. She said that communities themselves are able to pass ordinances to control the pollution factor caused by landscapers, as some neighboring towns in New Jersey and New York have already done so.

Nancy Triggiani-Musco, said the problem is two-fold; not only the tail-pipe emission of gas into the air, but also blowing allergens at high speed from all the motorized leaf blowers, present a major hazard. She said that the quality of the air we breathe has diminished and it is a high price to pay for maintaining manicured lawns. She asked that the issue be addressed by the town, and felt that new ordinances can be passed similar to other towns, to reduce the impact of the pollution and improve the quality of life. Dr. Haas added that noise pollution is another factor in the above matter, which could lead to accidents as well, since pedestrians cannot always hear vehicles approaching. He said that he agrees with Ms. Triggiani-Musco and believes something should be done. Dr. Haas said that the benefits in this instance are obvious, however there are factors such as the landscaping companies' investment in their machinery and equipment, that would work against her cause. Nancy proposed that all residents of Woodcliff Lake be educated about the hazards of landscaping services, and she said she would gladly write an article in the town newsletter to inform everyone of all the toxins produced and how it affects them.

Elaine said that the Board will address the issue and discuss it. They will check other towns' ordinances related to this matter and let Ms. Triggiani-Musco know about the outcome. The Board proceeded to discuss the matter further and came to the conclusion that the other towns' ordinances should be checked and the information verified.

The Board reviewed the results of the Rabies Clinic for 2008, which was pretty similar to the previous year. Fariba said that residents have until the end of January to license their animals for the new year, and afterwards there will be a late fee charged. There was a motion made and accepted, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on February 19th, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Fariba Negahban
Board of Health Secretary

Approved by:

Elaine Metlitz
President, Board of Health