

EAST AMWELL BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
7:30 p.m. <http://Zoom.us/j/7106754155> and 646-558-8656 ID 710 675 4155
Regular Meeting September 22, 2020

Statement of Compliance

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Board of Health was opened on September 22, 2020 at 7:35 PM. The following notice was read, “In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was advertised in the December 12, 2019 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat and a revised notice with the location change to a virtual Zoom meeting in accordance with the open public meetings act was advertised on September 17, 2020. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Township website and bulletin board, and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat.”

Present: Tracy Carluccio
Larry Tatsch
Pauline Serafin
Leonardo DeCandia, Alt. 1
Chris Sobieski
Tara Ramsey
Janis Grover

Absent: Jennifer O’Sullivan - Hunterdon County Division of Public Health

Agenda Review – None

Presentation of Minutes –

August 17, 2020 - **A motion by Mr. Tatsch seconded by Ms. Serafin, to approve minutes with minor edit was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

August 24, 2020 - **A motion by Mr. Sobieski seconded by Ms. Serafin, to approve minutes was carried with no objections or abstentions.**

Open to the Public –

With no members of the public coming forward a **motion by Mr. Sobieski, seconded by Ms. Serafin, to close to the public was unanimously carried with no objections or abstentions.**

Unfinished and New Business

Hunterdon County Division of Public Health Inspector’s Report

Ms. O’Sullivan provided a written report that was summarized by Ms. Carluccio and is below:

On Tue, Sep 22, 2020 at 2:58 PM Jennifer OSullivan <josullivan@co.hunterdon.nj.us> wrote:

Good afternoon Rosemary, I am sorry I will not be able to attend this evening. We have no updates at this time for the Zion Rd or Wertsville Rd. properties. Regarding the Speedway

monitoring wells they are scheduled to be abandoned on September 28th. An inspector from this department will be there to verify.

I've included both the initial pre op for Colonial Sportsmen's Club and the spot check conducted on 6/25/20. I've also included the CPOPP checklist and the NJ Covid 19 Outdoor Pool Standards.

I will be sending out a separate email for the closed-out complaint concerning the Case Nursery. This document is internal and can only be reviewed by the board and not the public.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jenny O'Sullivan
Hunterdon County Health Department
908-788-1351

Preview Committee- None

Items of Discussion

Education and Health Issues

Road Salt Testing: Mr. Tatsch said that he sent files and charts to Ms. Georgett today with an analysis of whether they represented sodium chloride or not. He continued by asking Board members to refer to the chart and said that in the data one needs to look for sodium and chloride which can come from sources other than road salt. Mr. Tatsch said that you need to look at both and compare them to see whether the ratios are representative of what you would find in pure salt. He continued that four houses submitted samples, named them and said the sodium levels were typical of what the Board has seen the past few years. Mr. Tatsch said looking at the chloride data, it's unclear what it means because one home had levels drop while at one property the levels shot up beyond what the Board has previously seen. He continued that the other two properties were somewhat higher than seen previously. Mr. Tatsch said it could be lab or sample contamination but does not know for certain.

Mr. Tatsch said looking at the correlation between sodium and chloride, the chart shows a theoretical level and an actual level, which are very close on two properties. However, the theoretical chloride level does not correlate well with the sodium and either or both are likely naturally occurring rather than from road salt. Mr. Tatsch said the Township has been conducting the tests over many years because what is important is when you have a trend. He continued that if there is a water softener that uses salt in a house, it is possible to have leakage causing contamination. Mr. Tatsch concluded that he did not see any trend that was worrisome although the levels were high in three of the four samples, and the Board will know better after the next test.

Ms. Carluccio thanked Mr. Tatsch for the analysis, and Mr. Sobieski asked what the issue would be if there was something causing pollution or was this just coming off the trucks. Mr. Tatsch

said the purpose of testing is to determine if the use of road salt, which began about 10 years ago, is having an adverse effect on well water. He continued that if it was having an effect, one would expect a good correlation between sodium and chloride suggesting that there is salt coming from somewhere (as opposed to being naturally occurring) and if the levels went up slowly over time, it would be suspicious that the source is road salt. Mr. Tatsch said in cases where there is not a good correlation, one does not know because there are other naturally occurring compounds that contain sodium and chloride that could be the source. Mr. Sobieski said there is not much to be done if it is naturally occurring, and Mr. Tatsch said yes and the levels are well below any State action levels. Ms. Carluccio said the Board will look at the data next year to see if it is a trend. Mr. Tatsch said yes and if so, the Board would advise the homeowners and ask if they had made any changes, took the sample from a different tap, and further investigate what might be causing it. Ms. Carluccio said years ago the levels were very high in one home, and after investigation the homeowners changed their water softener system. She continued that the instructions provided with the lab test kit state to collect the sample before water goes through any softener, and Mr. Tatsch said an outside tap is best.

Ms. Georgett said that the test results are sent directly to each homeowner and she could ask the DPW if there was heavy road salt administered the past winter, as it was not bad weather. Mr. Tatsch said it takes several years because it can take time for the salt to get from the road to the water source, and so no further follow up or action on this data is needed.

Quarterly Reporting to the Township Committee: Mr. Sobieski said the Township Committee in performing their oversight duties deferred to him to come up with a list of items for this report. He continued stating a quarterly or semi-annual report would be appropriate depending on the volume of applications, and three sections are being recommended. Mr. Sobieski said they would be 1) number of septic application with approval/denied and brief statement of why plus expenses 2) soil testing and funds as well as 3) general miscellaneous for special events, such as road salting, and changes to procedures or Ordinances. He said this will improve communications across Board/Committees and asked for feedback. Ms. Carluccio said under #3) the Board could include items under the Hunterdon County report, referencing block/lot but not homeowner name. She continued that for #1) waiver approval letters can be provided rather than a summary as they provide a full overview including special conditions, whether the property is under repair or new, etc. Mr. Sobieski agreed and said he would send Ms. Georgett a sample report for distribution to the Board.

Ms. Georgett said that the Acting Clerk has provided dates when reports are due and Mr. Sobieski said he can assist with reports if needed. Ms. Carluccio said she will review the reports before they go out and thanked Mr. Sobieski for outlining this for the Board.

Board Secretary's Report: Ms. Georgett said there is nothing to report.

Correspondence: There was discussion about the animal bite reports and that there have been quite a few in recent month.

Bills of the Evening: A motion by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Sobieski to approve 2 bills was carried with no objections or abstentions.

Open to the Public:

Seeing no members of the public present, **a motion by Mr. Sobieski, seconded by Ms. Serafin, to close to the public was unanimously carried with no objections or abstentions.**

Adjournment:

There being no further business, **a motion by Mr. Sobieski and seconded by Mr. Tatsch, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. was unanimously carried with no objections or abstentions.**

Rosemary Georgett, Board of Health Secretary