

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKLAND BOARD OF HEALTH

February 9, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Conference Room - Municipal Building

- CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM by Mr. Beattie.
- ROLL CALL** Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes
- OTHERS PRESENT** Council Liaison Pasquale Pignatelli, Thomas J. Romans, Esq. and Senior Sanitary Inspector Deborah A. McGrath. Also present were two nursing students from Ramapo College, Kimberly Lion, from Oakland, and Joanna Choregiewicz, studying public health.
- MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT** **This meeting is being held in accordance with the regulations of the Public Meetings Law, notices of which were sent to The Record, Suburban Trends and any other persons requesting same.**

REGULAR BUSINESS

- MINUTES** The Board reviewed the January 12, 2009 meeting minutes.
- Motion of Mr. Ostapczuk, seconded by Mr. Tiffinger, the January meeting minutes were approved.
- Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

- REPORTS** The Board reviewed the January Sanitarian's (REHS') Monthly Report and the January Secretary's/Registrar's Report.
- A discussion about birdfeeders attracting rats in Ramapo River Reserve (RRR) prompted Mr. Beattie to recommend that Inspector McGrath send a letter to the RRR management company asking them to remind residents that bears will soon be coming out of hibernation and will be hungry. The seed in birdfeeders is also attractive to bears. Council Liaison Pignatelli said they might want to put something in their newsletter about it.
- Council Liaison Pignatelli asked if the restaurants in town had been notified of the new state law requiring food manager's to be certified in food management by ServSafe. Inspector McGrath responded that she had not because Oakland's food ordinance requires certification in the County's 18-Hour Food Manager's Course, a course more stringent than ServSafe's.
- Motion of Ms. Wilgus, seconded by Dr. Davis, the Reports were accepted.
- Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

PAYMENT OF BILLS

2008

01/22/2009 – The Valley Hospital
(4th Qtr. 2008 Community Wellness, per contract)

\$1,114.30

2009

01/01/2009 – North Jersey Media Group	\$ 57.13
(Publish 2009 Meeting Schedule in The Record)	
02/02/2009 – Borough of Waldwick	\$ 30.00
(Two children for immunizations only at 1/13/09 CHC)	

Motion of Mr. Tiffinger, seconded by Mr. Talucci, bills approved for payment.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PORTOBELLO

Inspector McGrath reported that Portobello appeared in court for the two summonses issued for improper use of gloves, and improper sanitation of the dishwasher and glass washer. Portobello paid \$278 in fines. The Board was not pleased with the minimal amount of the fine.

NEW BUSINESS

**ENVIR. COMMISSION'S
PROPOSED CHANGES TO
RECYCLING PICK-UPS**

Mr. Beattie explained that the Environmental Commission is proposing to expand the items that recyclable. Mr. Ostapczuk, a member of the Environmental Commission noted that also proposed is to reduce the number of garbage pick-ups. Mr. Ostapczuk supports the proposal. By reducing the garbage pick-ups and increasing the recycling, the Borough would realize a savings. The reason this issue was brought before the Board was to determine if such a change would impact public health.

Mr. Tiffinger stated that the reason for twice-a-week pick-up was to break the fly cycle. Mr. Beattie asked if scientific data could be produced on this and Mr. Tiffinger stated he would provide it to Mr. Beattie. Council Liaison Pignatelli noted that the Borough is charged by tonnage. Since the same amount of garbage would ultimately be picked up, it would have little impact on the cost. Mr. Ostapczuk stated that in an effort to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint by reducing the amount of fuel used and as a part of the Mayor's plan to make Oakland a sustainable town, the Environmental Commission is pursuing the issue. Mr. Ostapczuk indicated that the Commission is considering two pick-ups in the summertime.

Mr. Ostapczuk stated that the Commission is also proposing residential composting. Mr. Beattie noted that most residents wouldn't be compliant with composting and expressed concern about compost piles attracting rodents and causing odors. Council Liaison Pignatelli stated that, if done properly, composting would not attract rodents; however, if done improperly, they will. Mr. Kozac composts five pounds a week. Yard waste is the biggest contributor to the load.

Mr. Ostapczuk stated that the list of recyclable plastic items has been greatly expanded and Oakland's recycling coordinator will soon be notifying residents of the change via a letter.

**MEETING OPENED TO
THE PUBLIC**

Motion of Dr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Ostapczuk, the meeting was opened to the public.

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Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

Mr. Beattie welcomed and introduced Mr. Michael Kozak of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Kozak is a resident of 24 Cayuga Drive.

Mr. Kozak stated that with the expansion of the recyclable items to include all plastic and foam items, residents are experiencing an accumulation of as much comingled recycling as they are trash. Currently, there are four pick-ups of trash and one pick-up of comingled per two-week period. The Borough Administrator questioned whether there would be a health issue if the town changes to once-per-week pick-up of trash and residents happen to miss the one pick-up. Mr. Kozak's reason for attending the meeting was to discuss this issue.

Mr. Beattie responded by explaining how twice weekly pick-ups break the fly cycle, preventing them from propagating. The summertime is when there could be a real problem with fly propagation if trash pick-up is reduced to once a week. Mr. Kozak asked about comingled containers attracting flies to which Mr. Beattie responded that people have to rinse them out. Mr. Beattie stated that he agrees with increasing the comingled recyclables, but, twice a week pick up would be necessary because more flies are present.

Dr. Davis questioned whether the concern is more about people missing a pick-up. Mr. Kozak responded, "Yes." Mr. Kozak stated that unless the town makes it easy for residents to comply, they're not going to do so. Mr. Kozak believes that an increase in recycling will result in less trash being generated. If fewer trash pick-ups are necessary, the town will realize a savings. Mr. Beattie said the Health Department's only concern is with flies and rodents.

Mr. Kozak asked if there is as much of an issue with an accumulation of comingled recyclables as there is with garbage. Mr. Ostapczuk asked Mr. Kozak about the reduction of the carbon footprint and how increasing comingled pick-ups would reduce the amount of fuel used. By reducing the trash pick-ups to two per two-week period and increasing the comingled pick-up to twice per two-week period, the total number of pick-ups would be reduced by one per two-week period. Mr. Pignatelli noted that a family with two or three children would generate a lot more garbage and recycling than a family of two. Mr. Kozak stated that the intent is to raise Oakland's recycling above its current 25% in order to save tax dollars. In comparison to Clifton which recycles 40% and Fair Lawn recycling 31%, Oakland is way behind.

Mr. Pignatelli asked about buying bigger barrels. Mr. Kozak said the size of the barrel is not the issue; rather it's the number of pick-ups. He spoke of a resident who is recycling all the materials that can be recycled. The resident has three or four bags plus the full pail sitting in his yard since last week. Mr. Kozak said the town is not making it easy for residents to comply.

Mr. Pignatelli spoke about doing an educational program involving children since children would encourage parents to recycle, thereby increasing compliance. He suggested that prizes could be offered to the class whose families recycle the most items. Mr. Kozak said compliance is not as much of an issue as holding the

recycling. If the one recycling day is missed, residents have to wait another two weeks for a pick-up. Mr. Pignatelli asked about having a borough recycling drop-off.

This had been done several years ago and didn't work. Using the site on Skyline drive is also no longer an option.

Ms. Wilgus asked if once-a-week trash pick-up would really be a problem for residents. Mr. Kozak believes that reducing the number of garbage pick-ups would encourage residents to recycle in order to reduce the amount of garbage generated. In Ontario, only one bag of garbage a week may be discarded which forces residents to comply with recycling laws.

Mr. Beattie said the only concern of the Health Department is flies and rodents, so the Board will take a look at the scientific data and make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council so they can make an informed decision. How the Mayor and Council bids on pick-up is their decision. Mr. Kozak said that a lot of towns have switched to once-a-week trash pick-up and suggested that the Board might want to find out how the fly problem is being addressed in those towns. Mr. Beattie responded that these towns might be uninformed about the fly situation.

A question was raised about school and commercial recycling. The schools' recycling is picked up by the Borough's hauler; however, businesses must contract privately for pickup, and what they recycle is governed by the individual hauler.

Mr. Kozak mentioned that a Green Fair will be held at the Library on the 24th of March and the Chamber of Commerce will be holding their meeting at the same time. Green buildings will be discussed, and anyone interested in attending may do so. Mr. Kozak also mentioned that he is Chairman of Oakland Sustainability.

Mr. Pignatelli asked if any videos are available to show residents exactly what can be recycled. Mr. Kozak said the Environmental Commission will, at their next meeting, be checking into what the BCUA offers and said that he might even film something himself. Mr. Kozak believes that public awareness is a key to the success of the program. Mr. Pignatelli said a Green Fair is a great idea.

Ms. West brought up the need for bear-proof garbage cans as animals can remove the lids off regular cans. Mr. Kozak does not want to encourage residents to go out and buy more recycling cans because, down the road, the plan is to use cans that can be picked up by an arm on the hauling trucks. However, currently there are no haulers in New Jersey that use this type of truck.

Mr. Kozak said that Fair Lawn has a full-time recycling coordinator. Residents who put recyclable items in the garbage get their recycled items stickered which can result in fines. Oakland's recycling coordinator sent out over 1,000 letters notifying residents of recycling violations and compliance increased only .1% over the course of the year. Enforcement is necessary to increase compliance, and the only enforcement authorities are the recycling coordinator, Board of Health and, Mr. Beattie added, the Police. Mr. Beattie indicated that the Police will never enforce recycling laws. Of concern to Mr. Beattie is adding recycling enforcement responsibility to the workload of the Health Department's inspectors when their hours were recently cut back due to budget constraints. The ordinance is already in place and has been for 22 years. Summonses need to be issued.

Mr. Kozak spoke of the wonderful job Borough Administrator Kunze is doing with the contract, and Mr. Pignatelli agreed, adding that Mr. Kunze has gotten additional money for the Borough a number of times.

Mr. Kozak said the BCUA is offering residents composting bins and reported that a good number of residents have already purchased them. Mr. Pignatelli expressed concern about food that can be put into the compost bin also attracting rodents. Mr. Kozak said that food products speed up the composting process but are not necessary. Composting is an option right now. Mr. Pignatelli said there will always be a percentage of people who will not comply and that you can't let that stop you. Mr. Beattie said that the goal is to turn the minority into the majority.

Mr. Kozak spoke again about the upcoming Green Fair being held on the 24th, nothing that many groups in Oakland will be participating.

Mr. Beattie thanked Mr. Kozak for his presentation and with no other questions from the Board asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Motion of Mr. Tiffinger, seconded by Mr. Ostapczuk, the meeting was closed to the public.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

PEANUT BUTTER RECALL

Inspector McGrath reported that most establishments had been notified of the recall by their distributors. The only establishment that had recalled products on its shelves was Krauszer's. The owner claimed his suppliers told him nothing and the only one notifying him of recalled product is the health inspector from the Health Department.

Inspector McGrath reported that the FDA had requested local health departments to conduct an audit. ShopRite tracks customers' purchases through their customer cards and contacted customers that had purchased recalled items to notify them of the recall.

All establishments received information on the recall, including the address of the FDA's website where the list of recalled items is regularly updated.

2009 VISION & HEARING SCREENING

It was reported that this program is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Ponds Reformed Church. Appointments will be scheduled from noon out to minimize the nursing costs associated with the program.

2009 FLU PROGRAM

It was reported that the 2009 Flu Program is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th, at the Senior Center.

CHILD HEALTH CONFERENCE PUBLICITY

In light of the economy, Ms. Dubowick asked if the Board would like to have publicity promoting the Child Health Conference and NJ Family Care placed in the local newspapers. The Board felt it would be a good idea and directed Ms. Dubowick to prepare and submit a press release.

OTHER BUSINESS

UPDATE ON 2009 BUDGET It was reported that the Mayor and Council approved and signed the 2009 Bergen County Animal Control Contract. The 2009 Bergen County Public Health Contract contained errors; therefore, the Mayor and Council will execute the contract upon receipt of a corrected copy. Also approved and signed were the three 2009 Valley Hospital Contracts, for Community Wellness Programs, Communicable Disease Reporting and School Immunization Auditing, and Bloodborne Pathogen Training.

AUTHORIZE BOH PRES. TO SIGN THE 2009 WALDWICK INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT The Mayor and Council approved and signed the 2009 Waldwick Inter-Local Agreement which requires the signature of the Board of Health President.

Motion of Ms. West, seconded by Mr. Tiffinger, the Board authorized Mr. Beattie to sign the Agreement. Cost of services under the Agreement include:

1. A one-time administrative fee of \$125.00
2. A \$35.00 per child/per visit fee for exams and immunizations
3. A \$15.00 per child/per visit fee for immunizations only.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

COMMUNITY BLOOD SERVICES Ms. Dubowick reported that she tentatively scheduled the blood drive for Tuesday, April 21st, from 3:30 PM to 7 PM, at the Senior Center. The Board approved the date. Mr. Beattie noted that he'd like to see more police and DPW employees participating in the drive. Mr. Pignatelli said he would take care of it. Mr. Pignatelli spoke of the health benefits derived from donating blood, including a boost in the immune system. The Board directed Ms. Dubowick to research the health benefits and publish them in the newspaper in order to raise awareness and encourage residents to donate.

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT Ms. Dubowick addressed the Board about the survey she had developed based on the State OEM's model and a cover letter for the survey. The Board reviewed the assessment and the letter. Mr. Pignatelli suggested that the sentence in the letter, about information remaining confidential and being used only in the event of an emergency, be underlined and changed to bold type. The Board discussed the survey, which they approved, and various ways to distribute it.

Prior to releasing the survey, likely in an upcoming issue of Crossroads, Ms. Dubowick suggested that it might be a beneficial to produce a film of a round-table discussion about emergency preparedness and how the special needs assessment fits into the Borough's plan. In order to show a united front on the issue, she felt it might also be beneficial to include in the discussion representatives from emergency management, emergency response organizations, local government officials, the Board of Health, and the County Health Department. This would serve a three-fold purpose, 1) to assure the community that the Borough is doing its part to prepare for an emergency and, 2) to help residents buy into participating in the survey, and 3) to encourage residents to make individual preparedness plans since government alone cannot do the job. It was thought that perhaps the County Health Department could facilitate such a discussion which would have to be scripted and rehearsed. The Board asked Ms. Dubowick to contact the County Health Department to find out if they would be willing to facilitate such a discussion and prepare the necessary script. Ms. Dubowick will report back with her findings.

**ELEVATORS IN
RESTAURANTS**

Ms. West questioned if information had been obtained on whether or not an elevator is required in restaurants with dining facilities on more than one level . Mr. Pignatelli said he would check into it and bring the information to next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Mr. Talucci, seconded by Dr. Davis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

APPROVED:

Ronald J. Beattie, President

ATTEST: _____
Karin Kennedy Dubowick, Secretary

DATE: _____