

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAKLAND BOARD OF HEALTH

May 11, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Conference Room - Municipal Building

- CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mr. Beattie.
- ROLL CALL** Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes
- OTHERS PRESENT** Thomas J. Romans, Esq. and Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Deborah A. McGrath
- 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 April 13th meeting minutes.
- Mr. Ostapczuk noted that the 2009 Board of Health list of members distributed at the meeting show an incorrect telephone number and e-mail address. Current information was provided and the list will be updated.
- Motion of Ms. West, seconded by Ms. Wilgus, the minutes were approved.
- Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Ms. Wilgus, Ms. West – All Yes

- REPORTS** The Board reviewed the April Sanitarian's (REHS') Monthly Report, April Secretary's/Registrar's Report and April Bergen County Animal Control Report.
- Inspector McGrath reported that Valley Pub finally has a Certified Food Manager, but it is not Paul Beshlian. Mr. Beshlian did not appear in court for either his initial appearance or the postponed appearance to answer to the summons he had been issued. He did, however, show up later on the day of his postponed hearing. Since the requirement for the 18-Hour Course was met, the charges were dismissed and only court costs were levied.
- Motion of Ms. Wilgus and seconded by Mr. Ostapczuk, the Reports were accepted.
- Roll Call: Mr. Beattie, Dr. Davis, Mr. Ostapczuk, Mr. Talucci, Ms. West, Ms. Wilgus – All Yes

- PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 04/16/2009 – Borough of Waldwick | \$ 85.00 |
| (Two children seen for exams/1 child for immunizations only at the April 2009 CHC) | |
| 04/13/2009 – The Valley Hospital | \$1,697.86 |
| (1 st Quarter 2009 Contracted Services) | |
| 04/17/2009 – MGL Printing Solutions | \$ 147.00 |
| (Minute book and filler paper) | |
| Bergen County Dept. of Health Services | \$4,737.32 |
| (1 st Quarter 2009 Animal Control Contracted Services) | |

Motion of Ms. West, seconded by Dr. Davis, bills approved for payment.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RABIES CLINIC

Ms. Dubowick reported that a letter of thanks and acceptance was sent to Dr. Duhr on April 20th. The date of Saturday, November 9th, was suggested for the clinic, and confirmation or suggested alternate dates was requested along with a certificate of insurance (per Administrator Kunze). On May 8th, Ramapo Valley Animal Hospital's Office Manager, Ms. Scattergood, called to inquire why the certificate of insurance is required since Dr. Duhr is volunteering his services and the clinic is being held on Borough property. Ms. Scattergood was referred to Administrator Kunze.

The Board discussed why a certificate of insurance might be required and consulted with Mr. Romans on the issue. Mr. Romans was of the opinion that the Borough's insurance would cover liability associated with any incident that occurs during the clinic.

Mr. Beattie directed Ms. Dubowick to send a memo to the Borough Administrator indicating that the Board reviewed the matter of insurance relative to the Rabies clinic and consulted with the Board of Health Attorney. It is the Board's opinion that the Borough's insurance should cover any incident that might occur on Borough property since the veterinarian services are being provided free of charge.

FEEDING WILDLIFE ARTICLE

Mr. Beattie reported that, last month, he submitted an article to The Record and Suburban News. The article appeared in the Suburban News, however it was edited to the point where the meaning was lost.

NEW BUSINESS

H1N1 (SWINE) FLU

Mr. Beattie reported that Mr. Pignatelli expressed his gratitude to the Board and Ms. Dubowick for doing such a great job getting information about H1N1Flu out to the public.

Mr. Beattie also expressed concern that the public is not taking the virus seriously enough because, thus far, cases have been so mild. The CDC is closely watching what the virus does in the southern hemisphere where the seasonal flu season is just getting underway and then what will happen in the fall when our seasonal flu season in the northern hemisphere begins. If the virus mutates, it could have far more serious consequences.

Mr. Beattie asked how the Board can get the public to take this more seriously. Ms. Wilgus noted the similarity to the public attitude that existed in New Orleans prior to Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Davis said there is still far more press coverage about the virus in Mexico than in the U.S. where coverage has dropped off. Mr. Beattie said the 1918 flu was far more virulent when the second wave came through in the fall.

Regular Meeting of the Oakland Board of Health – May 11, 2009 – Page 3

Mr. Talucci spoke about vaccines and said there was no cure for the strains of flu in past pandemics. Hospitals are currently geared up with anti-viral medication (capsule form) from the national stockpile and are ready to go. With certain pandemics, pre-treatment may be done. Protection from the virus would only exist while the medication is being taken and sometimes more than one course of treatment is required.

Mr. Beattie spoke about the PODS plan and asked if anyone had had a chance to review the plan he had e-mailed. During a recent PODS meeting, possible suitable locations for the PODS was discussed, and ShopRite came up as an option. However, with only one north-south route through town, the site was quickly deemed unsuitable as traffic congestion would become a major problem. It was decided that voting districts would be the most suitable option; however the Board of Education opposed the idea. Mr. Beattie noted that if there is a need to distribute medication, a public health emergency would be declared and the needs of the Board of Health would override the wishes of the Board of Education. Mr. Beattie said the all those who attended the recent PODS meeting felt the plan was a good one but it still needs refinement.

Mr. Beattie reported that Brian LaForge, a former Bergen County Health Department, employee, recently moved back into Oakland. Mr. LaForge is highly experienced in computer technology and has expressed interest in volunteering his time and expertise and would like to become a member of the Board. With no current openings, Mr. Beattie felt that Mr. LaForge might be able to help with recruiting volunteers to man the PODS. Mr. LaForge is also a member of the First Aid Squad.

Also discussed was how to determine Oakland's population for purposes of ordering medication from the national stockpile. Mr. Beattie said he would obtain a list of the registered voters from the Board of Elections which could be cross referenced with the Oakland's registered students.

Dr. Davis questioned how to ensure residents are requesting the proper number of doses for their families and how to communicate with residents quickly. Several ideas were discussed to address this issue, including the use of a card. Reverse 911 was also discussed as a possible means to inform residents of where to go should a PODS be opened which would also reduce the amount of chaos in the community.

Mr. Talucci noted that pediatric dosing would be determined by body weight and individual instructions would be required for children.

Manning PODS with medical professional volunteers at each voter district will be problematic, as many medical professionals will be locked down at their own jobs. Mr. Beattie added that members of the Fire, Police Departments and First Aid Squad could not volunteer to work at PODS as their services could be required elsewhere. Security will be a big issue, and having multiple PODS will multiply the number of security people needed.

Ms. Wilgus identified the two problems the Board faces. The first is how medication will be given out and the second is how to educate the public. Dr. Davis stated that the Board specifically needs to educate Oakland residents. A plan needs to be in place. Mr. Ostapczuk said that at a recent OEM meeting, he heard that the plan to use the voting districts had already been decided. The actual plan on how to distribute the medication has yet to be developed.

Regular Meeting of the Oakland Board of Health – May 11, 2009 – Page 4

Since several days would elapse between the time a decision is made to release medication from the national or state stockpile for dispensing at various PODS, time would be available to send each resident a card notifying them of instructions to follow to obtain medication. The cards could be sent via a bulk mailing.

The Board also discussed using the schools for drive-through PODS which would also be well suited for administering vaccinations, unless the weather is inclement. Mr. Beattie said the Police Department was assigned the task of coming up with traffic plans for each school since traffic will need to be routed to each facility.

It was noted that there is a need to have put together in advance all the supplies and signage necessary for each PODS so that when notification to activate the PODS is received, it can be done quickly and efficiently. Volunteers necessary to staff each PODS must be arranged in advance and back-up staff must be available as the sites could be open for 48 hours.

Dr. Davis said that this is a very serious matter and the scope of the Board of Health's responsibility is to get information out to Oakland's residents and do what is necessary to protect them. There is an outline of plan in place and the details will have to be worked out.

It was reported that the issue of some residents not having access to Public Access TV has been resolved; therefore public access television will be another method of communicating with residents. A public message could be pre-recorded and put up on Channel 77 to inform and direct residents.

Also discussed was the importance of securing a site where the pallets of medication can be securely stored until the time it can be dispensed.

It was also noted that any staff who might work at the PODS will need to possess identification, especially if residents are instructed to stay at home.

Mr. Beattie said that he'd like someone to work on security, someone to work on notification, someone to work on putting together a CD for distribution to the media. Mr. Beattie also asked Mr. Ostapczuk to design a postcard which will be used to inform residents of where to go to get medication. Mr. Beattie requested that the all information be e-mailed to him so he and Ms. Dubowick can review it.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Beattie reported that the Oakland Blood drive will be held at the Senior Center on Tuesday, May 21st, from 3:30 PM to 7 PM, and encouraged members to donate.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ms. Wilgus, seconded by Ms. West, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Regular Meeting of the Oakland Board of Health – May 11, 2009 – Page 5

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

APPROVED:

Andrew Davis, D.M.D., Vice-President

ATTEST: _____
Karin Kennedy Dubowick, Secretary

DATE: _____