

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM  
AUGUST 8, 2006**

President Jim Brown called the regular meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:35 p.m.

Answering present to the roll call were Mr. Hartford and Mr. Brown. Mr. Newby arrived at 7:40 p.m. Dr. Marano and Mr. Nachtigal were absent.

**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, 2006; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 12, 2006; and notice was filed with the Township Clerk on January 12, 2006.

**Approval of Minutes**

The approval of the minutes of April 11, 2006 and June 13, 2006 were deferred until the next meeting.

**Reports**

**Registered Environmental Health Specialist**

June- Registered Environmental Health Specialist Irena Bairova advised the Board that on June 19, 2006 St. Hubert's picked up a stray cat on Lenape Trail. The specimen was sent to the lab and tested positive for rabies. The entire neighborhood received notice about the rabies incident since the stray cat may have been in contact with other homeowner's cats. Mrs. Bairova performed the final inspection of the septic system at 769 Shunpike Road on June 9, 2006 and witnessed a soil test at 403 Green Village Road on June 21, 2006. Mrs. Bairova informed the Board that she was involved with housing issues concerning unsanitary living conditions for two different units on Terrace Drive. Mrs. Bairova explained that complaints had been received from neighbors and that she has worked with several agencies to resolve these issues. Mrs. Bairova will continue to follow up with these housing issues every 90 days. Six complaints were received during the month of June concerning property maintenance and overgrown grass. Mrs. Bairova advised she worked with the Building Inspector to rectify these issues. Mrs. Bairova determined there was an illegal kennel on Green Village Road and addressed the matter with the Township Attorney. Mrs. Bairova provided a homeowner on May Drive with a brochure about mold since the homeowner had concerns about mold in the basement. A notice of violation was sent to the homeowner on Lenape Trail who was feeding feral cats. Mrs. Bairova also advised that she had attended a workshop in early June and received certification as an "interpreter in a medical environment." Mrs. Bairova also attended an informal court hearing concerning one of the residents on Terrace Drive.

July- Mrs. Bairova informed the Board that in July she inspected two retail food establishments and both were satisfactory. Mrs. Bairova inspected a septic system at a house on Woodland Road and explained why the homeowner was interested in obtaining a sewer connection. Mrs. Bairova also followed up on the unsanitary living conditions for the two units on Terrace Drive and on the illegal kennel in Green Village. A letter was also sent to a homeowner on Vernon Lane who had concerns about mold, a leak and an illegal day care. A dead crow found on Stafford Road tested negative for West Nile Virus. The Board entertained a brief discussion about mosquito's and spraying.

**Registrar of Vital Statistics**

Mrs. Wiley reported the following licenses were issued:

<u>June</u>	
7 Certified copies of Marriage Licenses	\$ 28
4 Marriage Licenses	112

1 Birth Certificate	4
1 Certified copy of a Death Certificate	<u>4</u>
Total	\$148

<u>July</u>	
15 Certified copies of Marriage Licenses	\$ 60
3 Marriage Licenses	84
16 Certified copies of Death Certificates	<u>64</u>
Total	\$208

Secretary- The Board discussed the letter received from Mrs. Kampf concerning ground hogs. Mrs. Bairova advised ground hogs do not carry rabies. Following a brief discussion, the Board thought the best advice to be given the homeowner was to contact a trapper. Mrs. Bairova volunteered to respond to the resident and advise her that she would provide the names of trappers if she was interested.

Mr. Brown moved to accept the reports. Mr. Newby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**New Business**

The septic application for 592 Spring Valley Road will be heard at the September meeting. Mrs. Wiley also informed the Board that another septic application might be ready for the next meeting also.

**Discussion**

1. Licensing of cats- Mrs. Wiley distributed to the Board members copies of the Board of Health ordinance requiring cats to be inoculated against rabies and the Township Code that deals with animal control and the licensing of dogs. Mrs. Bairova informed the Board that the State requires a dog and cat census to be done every two years and that recent legislation allows the towns to increase the fees for licensing of dogs. Mrs. Bairova advised that all the surrounding towns require cats to be licensed and that the jurisdiction for cat and dog licensing falls under the Board of Health. The Board then reviewed the sample ordinance from another town about licensing cats and discussed the need for cats to wear a collar displaying the license number. Mr. Hartford recommended that the proposed requirement should be properly publicized to get feedback from the public. Mrs. Bairova discussed some of the advantages to licensing cats especially with the recent incident with the stray cat that tested positive for rabies. The fees collected might help offset the cost of the Animal Control Contract with St. Hubert's Giralda. The Board discussed the need to be consistent with the requirements for pets and that cats should be treated like dogs since they can get the same diseases. The fact that surrounding towns also require cats to be licensed was a consideration. The Board also discussed the timing of the rabies vaccination in relationship to the issuance of a license. The Board also thought the rabies vaccination requirement should be incorporated into the present dog ordinance and that the fees for dog licensing could be revisited. The Board suggested the Township Attorney should be consulted about jurisdiction over licensing of dogs and cats and that the Township Administrator would need to determine how the licensing of cats would be handled administratively. The Board thought there was a need to find out more information about State regulations, when licensing must be done and whether a two or three year license could be issued.
2. Kennels/Limiting the number of dogs- Mrs. Bairova advised the Board that the Zoning Officer agreed with her recommendation about the need for an ordinance limiting the number of dogs and cats in a household. The Board thought it was important to address the number of dogs and cats allowed and to have a law that is enforceable when it needs to be enforced. The Board reviewed the sample ordinance from the Township of Morris and discussed what the limit should be. Mr. Hartford expressed some reservations about imposing a limit that might be conceived as targeting a particular individual. Mr. Newby pointed out the ordinance example presented had a grandfather clause in it. Mrs. Bairova advised all of the surrounding towns have limits of 3 to 5 dogs and 5 to 6 cats. Mr. Brown thought the Board of Health could move forward on limiting the number of cats and dogs allowed in a household.

Following the lengthy discussion, the Board thought a recommendation should be made to the Township Committee to place the ordinances requiring the licensing of dogs and cats under the Board of Health jurisdiction. Mr. Hartford will report on the Board of Health meeting at the Township Committee meeting.

Before adjourning, Mr. Hartford inquired about any update on the Bird Flu. Mrs. Bairova advised the Health Officer John These receives the updated information on the Bird Flu. Mr. Hartford also questioned if Micki Chaput from the Senior Center could be present for the planning of the Flu Clinic at the next meeting. Mr. Brown thought it would be helpful to find out why the Flu Clinic in the Borough ran more smoothly than ours. The Board discussed the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Newby suggested that Flo Rice come to our meeting with a list of suggestions for the Flu Clinic.

Mr. Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m. Mr. Hartford seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Joy M. Wiley  
Board of Health Secretary