

**WARREN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 08, 2023– 7:00 P.M.
UNION VILLAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
46 MOUNTAIN BOULEVARD, 2ND FLOOR**

Call to Order: The regular public meeting of the Warren Township Board of Health was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Malcolm Plager, Chairman/President.

Flag Salute-All present stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

The Opening Statement: Adequate notice of this meeting was given on January 01, 2023 by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board, sending a copy to the Township Clerk and the Star Ledger, as required by the Open Public Meetings Act. We plan to adjourn no later than 10:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Mr. Plager – present	Mr. Rosenman – absent
Mr. Riley – present	Dr. Mandal - absent
Mr. Morlino – absent	Ms. Valerio (Alternate #1) – present
Ms. Lontai – present	Dr. Singh (Alternate #2) – present
Dr. Sarraf- present	

Privilege of the Floor: None at this time.

Old Business:

Case #1

24 Highmount Ave

Block 211, Lot 3

Application: Variance Application- BH4-5 et seq. requiring sewer connection

Applicant: Mr. Angelo Paolella, Jr.

Attorney: Richard M. Sasso, Esq.

Mr. Plager introduced Mr. Sasso, Esq. who is counsel for the applicant Mr. Angelo Paolella, Jr. (now deceased). Mr. Paolella, Jr. is being represented by his son, Angelo Paolella, III. Mr. Sasso informed the Board that he is representing the applicant at no cost and as a favor, being that he has known the family for many years. Mr. Sasso introduced Mr. Angelo Paolella, III and asked him to give a brief description on the history of sewer connection issues that had been ongoing for many decades.

Mr. Riley swore Mr. Paolella, III in as witness one. Mr. Paolella, III introduced himself and explained his family had been in Warren for over three generations. His grandfather built a hunting cabin in the early 1900's with an out-house; Mr. Paolella III's parents got married there in 1956 and Mr. Paolella Jr. then built the current house at 24 Highmount Avenue. He ran a disposal services business for over 36 years that serviced Watchung, Warren and Plainfield and raised his children who attended schools in Warren. Mr. Paolella, III was a police officer in Warren and very active in the community. Highmount Avenue, at that time was a dirt road with only two homes 24 and 26 Highmount Avenue and were never able to tie-in to sewer due to no capacity. Fast forward to 1986, Highmount Avenue was connected to Stirling Road and Kalman Court and Birchmont Lane were created with forty-five new dwellings added. Sewer goes right in front of Mr. Paolella's home and the neighbors; every attempt made by Mr., Paolella and his

neighbors to connect was denied due to lack of capacity. For over 50 years they tried to get sewer connection and time after time were denied due to capacity issues. As some of the residents became elderly and homes were sold, young families moved in and were able to connect right of way. Mr. Paoella, III asks the Board for special dispensation and consideration to extend the period of mandatory connection as issued by the Department of Health back in 2021, to be moved until he prepares the house for sale, and let the new owner, be it a developer or single buyer, take care of the connection at that time. Mr. Paoella, III is not going to live at the premises, has no intention to rent/lease it and is planning on cleaning out the home and sheds on the premises to then place the house on the market. He feels that if for decades his parents were denied connection, he does not see the immediacy to connect at this time. Mr. Riley asked Mr. Paoella when the house was going up for sale. He responded the house will be going up for sale as soon as he cleans it out complete- it is a big piece of property (almost 2 acres) and there is a lot of stuff to clean out. Mr. Riley also asked if he plans on renting it. He stated that absolutely not, his intention is to sale the home as soon as he can and believes the home will sell fairly quickly. A neighbor already approached him to inquire about sale. Mr. Riley asked Mr. Paoella if he is contemplating retaining Mr. Sasso as the attorney to represent him in the sale of the house. Mr. Riley feels that any prospective buyers should be notified that connecting to sewer is a condition of the sale. Mr. Plager agrees and suggests that a Resolution be drawn up. Mr. Sumner is going to write a Resolution to be passed at the next Board of Health meeting. Mr. Riley wants the Resolution to include an outside time limit for the sale as he does not want the situation to drag on. Dr. Sarraf questioned why there is a need for a time limit. Mr. Plager stated that criteria should be set such as the house stays empty, house is not occupied for any reason until it sells and suggests a time limit of six months. Mr. Paoella gave his word the house will be sold by the end of the year. Ms. Lontai asks for clarification on the time frame. Mr. Riley suggests Resolution include a deadline of December 31, home cannot be occupied and any potential buyer of the house has to be notified about the connection to sewer. Mr. Sumner asks a motion be made regarding the final decision of the Board and request a Resolution be in place to be approved at next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Riley to do a Resolution that will first withdraw the original request for permanent hardship and secondly and the Board of Health is going to defer any enforcement on the demand to connect the property to the public sewer at this time, due to the passing of the applicant, and the property is potentially going to be sold and deferment will be in place until the end of the year, pending sale of the property and condition of deferment is for property to not be rented or leased to any third party during the deferment time and any action taken on the property (sale or possible subdivision) the buyer(s) be notified that the property must be connected to public sewer. Motion seconded by Ms. Lontai.

Discussion:

Mr. Plager suggests a statement be added at the end mentioning that if at such time no action is not taken with the house effective January 01, 2024, it's required to connect to the sewer

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

New Business: None.

Approval of Minutes: January 25, 2023.

Motion was made by Mr. Riley to approve January 25, 2023 minutes as prepared. Motion seconded by Ms. Lontai.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Correspondence: Mr. Sumner included bullet points that were sent to Ms. Lontai to present at Township Committee regarding current Health Department activities. Pet licensing is still ongoing; radon test kits are available and can be picked up for free in the Health Department- results are not collected by Health Department. Covid updates were included. Ms. Lontai affirmed that she shared the bullet points with the residents at the TC meeting.

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission Report:

Mr. Riley gave a brief summary on the Commission's annual re-organization meeting on February 06, 2023. Mr. Riley was voted in as President of the Commission for 2023, Wells Winegar will continue on as Vice-president, Ms. Angela Valerio volunteered to be Treasurer, Mr. Sumner is the official executive secretary, Dr. Frank was re-appointed as the commission physician. Minutes, treasurer reports from December and January were reviewed and accepted. Mr. Sumner gave a Covid update and reported on some other diseases. A holiday schedule for the Commission was debated with July 3 and July 4 being a holiday, if Green Brook Municipal Building was closed as a holiday. Salary Resolutions were passed. Health benefits Resolution for Mr. Sumner was passed. VNA contract was approved. Annual Resolutions for each town for services provided were passed. Approval of Commission meeting dates were approved. Mr. Sumner spoke about two grants at the Commission meeting. Mr. Riley offered the members the 2021 NJ Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash Report from the State Police.

Dr. Sarraf asked where the source of income for the Commission comes from to which Mr. Riley gave a brief detailed explanation. Dr. Sarraf asked more specifically how much Warren Township paid for services, Mr. Riley responded Warren pays \$156,622.00 for 2023 fiscal year. Mr. Riley further stated that grants received are also part of the budget. Mr. Sumner added that grants were able to fund two staff persons which do about 800 communicable infectious disease investigations, per month, community outreach that includes going out and meeting with long term care facilities, schools and other partners in the community to build relations and find out what the community needs are. Mr. Riley further added that Bridgewater Township has now signed on with the Commission as a member.

Reports of Employees/Health Officer Report:

Mr. Sumner applied for funding through our State Association, which is going to support two staff to go out to do infection control training in the long-term care facilities. Mr. Sumner anticipates that grant money received during Pandemic which supports the two staff members that work with the community, will end July 2024. A new program called First Line, is coming

which will implement infection control training with staff of long-term care facilities. Mr. Sumner stated that a fair number of gastro intestinal outbreaks in long-term care facilities along the line of norovirus have been occurring. Ms. Lontai noted that the elementary schools are also seeing an increased number of gastrointestinal viruses. Mr. Sumner reported he was in Washington D.C. for in person annual NACCHO leadership meeting for the State Associations and visited with staff from Senators Booker and Menendez and Representative Kean's offices about public health funding and the need for long term sustainable disease agnostic flexible funding. He also spoke about a bill that was authorized and passed by congress last year, but was not funded by congress which would provide public health professionals that worked in government for a minimum of three years, student loan repayment. This would perhaps aid governmental public health employers to hire public health employees which are currently experiencing a shortage of interested individuals.

Treasurer's Reports: January and February 2023.

January 2023 - Health Receipts	
Receipts for Registrar	\$330.00
Health	\$13,535.00
Application Fees	\$0.00
Septic and Well	\$275.00
Total Health	\$14,140.00

January 2023 - Animal Control Receipts	
Dog	\$10,467.00
Cats	\$753.00
Total Animal	\$11,220.00

Total Receipts - January 2023 **\$25,360.00**

January 2023 - Health Disbursements	
2023 Registrar Membership (Martins)	\$25.00
Office Supplies (Staples/Amazon)	\$67.99
BOH Change Fund-Resolution 2022-300	\$50.00
Total Health Disbursement	\$142.99

January 2023 - Animal Control Disbursements	
2023 State Dog License Fee-January	\$ 862.20
ACS CONTRACT FEE- JANUARY 2023	\$ 2,357.00
Total Animal Control Disbursements	\$ 3,219.20

Total Disbursements - January 2023 **\$3,362.19**

February 2023 - Health Receipts	
Receipts for Registrar	\$ 220.00
Health	\$ 1,625.00
Application Fees	\$ 200.00
Septic and Well	\$ 405.00
Total Health	\$ 2,450.00

February 2023 - Animal Control Receipts	
Dog	\$ 2,514.00
Cats	\$ 115.00
Total Animal	\$ 2,629.00

Total Receipts - February 2023 \$ 5,079.00

February 2023 - Health Disbursements	
2023 Annual Spring Conf. Registrar (Martins)	\$ 50.00
BOH Yearly Meeting Legal Notice Posting	\$ 50.31
Total Health Disbursement	\$ 100.31

February 2023 - Animal Control Disbursements	
2023 State Dog License Fee-February	\$ 186.60
JP Cooke Additional 2023 Dog Tags (901-1100)	\$ 113.55
2023 ACO Contract-February	\$ 2,357.00
Total Animal Control Disbursements	\$ 2,657.15

Total Disbursements - February 2023 \$ 2,757.46

Motion was made by Mr. Riley and seconded by Dr. Sarraf to approve January and February 2023 Financial Report as read.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Discussion:

Mr. Plager asked Ms. Martins for status on dog licensing for 2023 year. Ms. Martins informed the Board that licensing registration for both cats and dogs increased post campaign initiated in December/January by mailing out notices to all Warren Township residents and sending out weekly/monthly email blasts. Mr. Plager asked Mr. Sumner if he has noticed an increase in new advanced septic systems in town. Mr. Sumner stated that we get anywhere between six/twelve new applications for the year. Mr. Plager asked if Animal Control Solutions were meeting expectations; Ms. Martins affirmed that so far, residents have not complained about services

and Health Department is satisfied with the work they provide. Ms. Lontai mentioned that dog registering online is not an easy process and discussed reaching out to Mr. Krane to evaluate the program offered or making adjustments to make it easier to navigate. Ms. Valerio informed the Board the High School is still seeing various illnesses such as flu, covid and gastrointestinal. Parents are questioning covid protocols. Dr. Singh is still seeing covid cases in her practice, but nothing too severe. Ms. Lontai asked Mr. Sumner if he had any other solution to have students that are coming from other countries without proper vaccinations, to be able to go to clinics and receive the vaccines. Mr. Sumner stated that other than the current VNA and other two clinics that were previously given, at this time there isn't any other recourse; Mr. Sumner is going to reach out to visiting nursing services to see what can be arranged.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Mr. Riley, seconded by Dr. Sarraf to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Martins
Administrative Secretary
Warren Township Board of Health