

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
December 1, 2008**

**TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING**

The December meeting of the Cranbury Township Board of Health was held in Town Hall on December 1, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, Cheryl Coyle, Chairwoman of the Cranbury Township Board of Health, called the meeting to order and Kristen H. Hamilton acted as Recording Secretary of the meeting.

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) was provided on January 7, 2008, of this meeting's date, time and place, and the agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cheryl Coyle, Chairwoman, Dr. Daniel Notterman, John Jackson and Beverly Gerberich.

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Kevin Van Hise, Esquire, Board Attorney, Jessica Smit of the Middlesex County Public Health Department and Stephen Papenberg, Health Officer of South Brunswick Township.

**MINUTES**

The November minutes were unanimously approved; motion by Dr. Notterman; seconded by Mr. Jackson.

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS**

The Board reviewed the November 2008 Environmental Report.

There was no Health Report provided for the month of November 2008.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Rabies Protocol - Cat Licenses – Mr. Stephen Papenberg, Health Officer of South Brunswick Township and Treasurer of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health, spoke to the Board regarding cat licensing. Mr. Papenberg provided the following information:

- A copy of the Ordinance adopted by South Brunswick Township in 1988 was provided. This Ordinance was enacted as a result of a rabid raccoon.
- An average of 18-20 rabid cats per year are found within the State of New Jersey. So far this year there have been 15 rabid cats. There have only been five (5) rabid dogs within the State over the past 25 years.
- An Ordinance could allow for the waiver of fees in certain instances.
- The South Brunswick Ordinance excludes non-domesticated cats located upon farmlands. These cats were excluded because farm cats are not necessarily among the population.
- An emphasis needs to be made that licensing is mainly to provide proof of rabies vaccine.
- Another positive fact is that cat licensing would allow a lost and picked up cat to be returned to its owner.
- A problem with the catch, neuter and release program is that an initial rabies vaccine is

only valid for one (1) year and it is extremely difficult to re-catch and/or verify vaccination of such cats. Another problem with this program is a liability issue; specifically, who becomes the responsible party for the program, for vaccinations, for any injury caused by cats within the program, etc.

- Approximately 1/3 of municipalities within the State have cat licensing ordinances. South Brunswick Township has approximately a 60% compliance rate.
- The State Department of Health, Office of Animal Welfare, supports and would like to see enacted a statewide licensing requirement.
- The major educational push in support of the ordinance is that if a cat is infected, it has a six (6) month quarantine period or it must be euthanized.
- For more information, the Township could consider a presentation, which includes experts such as David Papi, Director of the Middlesex County Public Health Department, and/or Dr. Michael Young, Township Veterinarian. The presentation should raise awareness of rabid raccoons and bats being found in Cranbury.

An issue was raised regarding the danger of cats wearing collars with tags. Dr. Notterman suggested that, as part of any Township program, cat owners could be provided with the opportunity to have digital photographs of their cat(s) placed with the licensing records for identification purposes.

The Board discussed the best way to involve the Cranbury Township Committee in the issue. Pari Stave, Township Committee Liaison, will be contacted. Mr. Van Hise indicated that the Board, via its Chair, could attend a Committee meeting with experts to present information for feedback.

Mr. Papenberg suggested that the Chairwoman send a memorandum to the Township Committee attaching a copy of a model ordinance and asking for comments. Dr. Notterman opined that the memorandum should also include specific provisions being considered by the Board, i.e. fee waiver provision, no collar option, digital photograph consideration, etc.

The Board of Health should ask David Papi and Dr. Michael Young for recommendations and letters of support.

A question was raised if the Board could designate where the money collected from the licensing fees could be applied, i.e. for animal control, upkeep of the database, etc.

General information regarding rabies will be put in the Township's newsletter. Jessica Smith will provide something from the Middlesex County Public Health Department.

AED Equipment in Public Places – The Secretary will contact Charlie Smith of the Cranbury First Aid Squad to inquire if they would want to maintain the equipment located in Town Hall. She will also inquire if the training includes BLS (basic life support) as well as AED training.

Vaccinations for Township Employees - The Animal Control Officers, Jerry Thorne and Bruno Bertucci, have received the entire three rounds of rabies vaccinations.

Pandemic Plan – A link to the State's Pandemic Plan will be put on the Township's website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

EMT Draft Legislation – Chairwoman Coyle wanted the Board to be made aware that the State is considering legislation to require stricter guidelines regarding the training and licensing of EMTs. The Board will revisit this issue if legislation is introduced.

**DISCUSSION**

The Secretary will send an email to Four Seasons asking that something be put in their newsletter regarding the vacancy on the Board of Health.

The Secretary will send a thank you note to Mr. Papenberg for attending tonight's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify, that I am the duly appointed Secretary of the Cranbury Township Board of Health, and that this document, consisting of 3 pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the monthly meeting held on December 1, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 5th day of January, 2009.

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Kristen H. Hamilton, Secretary