

Minutes of the Meeting of the Rocky Hill Board of Health
14 April 2009

Members present:

Lisbeth Haines MD (presiding), Susan Fisher VMD, Mary Germain Ed.D APRN-BC,
Beverly Poelstra MD
Stephen Papenberg, South Brunswick Township Health Officer
Linda Goldman, Borough Council Liaison.
Excused: Margaret Querec RN MSN

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Haines at 4:37 pm in compliance with the open Public Meeting Law Chapter 231.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2009 were approved with minor changes suggested by Dr. Fisher regarding Provision 6B of the “Draft agreement for the provision of public health services to the Borough of Rocky Hill by the Somerset County Department of Health (henceforth referred to as the Draft agreement.)”

Dr. Fisher feels this should be clarified to read “the veterinarian will prepare the specimen for rabies examination and deliver it to Trenton.” Mr. Papenberg stated that the South Brunswick animal control personnel will transport the animal in question to a veterinarian to have the specimen prepared, and then will transport this specimen to the state lab in Trenton for analysis.

Dr. Fisher looked up Provision 6A of the “Draft agreement” regarding animal quarantine procedure (chapter 56 in the Code book of Rocky Hill) which she feels is a confusing statute. She feels this needs to be revisited in the future and that since there are state regulations regarding the handling of dogs or cats which bite people, we do not need a separate ordinance.

Mrs. Goldman will revisit chapter 56 and, in consult with Dr. Fisher, will revise the wording.

Dr. Germain made a motion to accept the minutes the above changes. Dr. Poelstra seconded. Unanimously approved.

Report of the South Brunswick Health Officer

Mr. Papenberg discussed the deer carcass removal contract. He is currently working with a vendor to determine best way for Rocky Hill to proceed. We may possibly combine this service with the “Contract for Local Animal Control Services” at an additional cost of \$57.50 per deer. If a deer carcass is located on country road, however, then the county will pay for its removal.

Citizens will make a report to the SB Animal control officer who will then contact the deer removal vendor.

Old/Continuing Business

A. Municipal Alliance Update –

The last meeting was attended by Dr. Poelstra. Results of Rowan Social Norms Survey on Alcohol/Tobacco and other drug use was discussed. The point of this survey was to assess use in Montgomery but also to inform teens that the prevalence of alcohol and drug use is lower than they estimate, so they will feel less pressure to use these substances.

A committee was formed to investigate crafting an Underage Drinking Ordinance similar to what is currently in place in Hillsborough, Hopewell and other local communities. The main benefit to this would be to allow police officers access to parties which occur on private property when the welfare of a minor is at stake. A "Good Samaritan" or "Call for Aid" clause is planned, relieving the person who phones for help of any liability in order to prevent alcohol related deaths or morbidity. The state may be in the process of writing legislation to this effect in the near future, but it is likely to go through a much more lengthy process than a local ordinance would and would not necessarily include a Good Samaritan clause.

Montgomery Night off was a rousing success and is planned for next year. Other initiatives are Montgomery Night at Patriots Stadium, a Transition to High School program, and Family Movie nights.

The future funding of the Municipal Alliance and Youth Services Commission are precarious at this point, due to state budget issues.

B. Animal Control Contract

Resolution RES 2009-162 was adopted, approved and signed by the mayor of South Brunswick. The contract will now include deer carcass management as per NJAC 8:52 Motion to approve made by Dr. Germain. Seconded by Dr. Poelstra. All in favor. The contract is now pending approval by the Rocky Hill mayor and council.

C. Termination Resolution.

The contract for termination of public health services with the township of South Brunswick was reviewed by the borough attorney and it meets the requirements of Title 26, since we are entering a new shared services agreement with the Somerset County Health Department. Dr. Germain made a motion to ratify and confirm which was seconded by Dr. Fisher. Unanimously approved.

D. SCDOH Agreement

Dr. Haines and Mr. Horensky have discussed the issues brought up during our last meeting. Revisions made and approved verbally by both parties.

After discussion, it was decided to add the word "written" before "monthly report" under Provision 6F.

Also, under 6J will add the words "on location in Rocky Hill" regarding the annual rabies clinic.

Provision 6E was felt to be redundant, so will be deleted.

Provision 5 on page 2 (or Provision 3 under the new numbering system) will be amended to state that the County will be responsible for subcontracting with VNA for influenza clinics and with a local veterinarian for rabies clinic. Currently our township clerk pays the vet, but the veterinarian is hired by South Brunswick. Mr. Horensky agreed verbally to hire the veterinarian so the contract will be amended to reflect this.

Provision 6L is not yet resolved as the VNA does not provide influenza vaccination to children. We may be able to meet this need by referring patients to the University Medical Center at Princeton clinics. South Brunswick does cover this service, but many municipalities do not. It is not a state requirement that the BOH provide flu or pneumonia vaccinations to anyone.

Dr. Haines noted highlights from Mrs. Goldman's email about the well baby clinic in Kinnelon. The cost is \$15, and is not for children with Medicaid or pending insurance. It is for uninsured persons. Since the clinic is using state funded vaccines, anyone who has insurance must be turned away and told to go to their private provider. However, Rocky Hill does not have social workers to determine who is eligible and who is not. Mr. Papenberg will discuss the issue of determining eligibility with Mr. Horensky. Also, there is an age limit of 18 y/o.

Dr. Poelstra will obtain a list of estimated charges from UMCP.

There are still many unanswered questions. Eventually a memorandum of understanding will be drafted.

Dr. Haines will make these further revisions to the contract and send to Mr. Horensky for his approval. Mrs. Goldman will then provide a copy to borough attorney Albert Cruz, who will then contact the county attorney. The contract must then be approved by the state before it can be approved and adopted by the Borough Council. . Once the two attorneys are in agreement, the Mayor will sign it, then the Somerset Freeholders. Mr Horensky will then send the Agreement to the State for final approval.

Dr. Fisher moved that we accept this agreement as amended. Dr. Poelstra seconded. Unanimously approved.

E. EOP is emergency operations plan
Discussion tabled until future meeting.

F. Rabies clinic

Clinic for dogs and cats will occur this Saturday. Signs posted in Post Office, flyers sent to all residents and sandwich board in front of fire department.

The next meeting will occur on May 12 2009 at 4:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Poelstra and seconded by Dr. Fisher. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Poelstra MD