

**BOROUGH OF WOODCLIFF LAKE**

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007  
REGULAR MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dr. Gerhard Haas at 7:45 pm, according to the Open Public Meetings Act.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Dr. Gerhard Haas  
Dr. Mary Clark  
Dr. Steven Sperber  
John Frey  
Councilman Fred Singer  
Secretary Fariba Negahban  
Sanitarian, Linda Quinn  
(for Jennifer Pontillo)

**Absent:**

Elaine Metlitz  
Janet Levine  
Christine LaPaglia

**MINUTES:**

The minutes for the June meeting were reviewed. There were no questions or comments. There was a motion made by John Frey and seconded by Dr. Clark to approve the minutes for the month of June.

**SANITARIAN'S REPORTS:**

Dr. Haas asked Linda Quinn when she started in Woodcliff Lake, and Linda answered that she took over for Jennifer Pontillo the very end of August 2007. Dr. Haas started with the Sanitarian's report for the month of June, and asked about the resident at 70 Wyandemere Drive in reference to keeping pigeons on his property, and whether these are carrier pigeons. Linda did not know the purpose for keeping them. Fred Singer added that he asked the Borough attorney

to look into the situation and it is currently under review by the Mayor and Council. At present, the resident is to wait for the Mayor and Council's decision. Next Dr. Haas asked about the kittens quarantined on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Linda said there must have been a biting incident which caused them to be taken to Teterboro animal shelter. Next, Dr. Haas asked about June 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Public Health Nuisance Code. Linda explained that anything that might be bothering neighbors within reason, such as odors, infestations, poison ivy, etc... can be classified as PHN and looked into by the Sanitarian.

Dr. Haas asked about June 21<sup>st</sup>, regarding a resident's pool. Linda said that it must have been a Public Health Nuisance issue with standing water that could have resulted in mosquitoes, and the resident must have taken care of the situation by chlorinating the water and taking care of the filter. He also had a question about a Dove's nest on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Linda said someone must have called to find out what to do with wildlife removal, and unless there is a situation with rabies, the county will not get involved. The resident would have to contact a pest control service, to get rid of an animal on their property.

John Frey asked a question about June 29<sup>th</sup>, in reference to 12 Centennial Way. Linda was not fully aware of the situation, since it occurred before she was in Woodcliff Lake. Fariba explained that this has been an ongoing situation with the resident at the above address, where she has financial and emotional difficulties, as well as problems with her neighbors for not keeping her property clean and properly maintained. She has been issued summonses for various matters including not licensing or picking up after her dogs. Jennifer Pontillo had tried to get her some assistance/counseling through adult protective services.

There was a motion made and accepted to approve the Sanitarian's report for June 2007.

The Sanitarian's report for July was reviewed next. Dr. Clark asked a question about Panera Bread on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>, in reference to the garbage. Linda said that she has not inspected them fully yet but their garbage dumpster was open once and she sent them a notice for that. If the garbage area is overflowing or not maintained they will get a summons. Linda said at present she believes they are satisfactory, and will do a full inspection of Panera Bread in the near future. There was a motion made and accepted to approve the Sanitarian's report for July 2007.

Next the August Sanitarian's report was reviewed. Dr. Sperber asked a question about overgrown weeds on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Linda said usually that is a property maintenance issue checked out by the Building Dept., but many times if neighbors are complaining about overgrown weeds, they may add that there were rats, insects, or stagnant water as well and then it becomes a Health Dept. issue. Linda said only ragweed is a problem that needs to be controlled. Dr. Haas asked about the sewer bugs incident at the A & P Bakery on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Linda said

there were sewer bugs inside the drains and they were not coming out of that area. She would have closed the Bakery Dept. if there was infestation in the kitchen. The bugs would not come out and the drains needed to be cleaned out, as a result they received a conditional status. When Linda reinspected them a few days later they had cleaned the accumulations in the drains. Dr. Sperber asked about the resident at 44 Brookview drive on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Linda said she received a call in reference to water contamination, and a company offering to test the water for the resident. Linda gave the resident the name and the phone number of the water expert at the County for further information, and explained that since they partially use well water, it needs to be tested for certain chemicals periodically. The company offering to test the water was probably marketing their services for a fee. There were no further questions or comments. John Frey made a motion to approve the Sanitarian's report for August, and it was seconded by Dr. Haas.

### **CASH RECEIPTS REPORTS:**

The Cash Receipts reports for June through August 2007 were reviewed. There was a motion made and so carried to approve the cash receipts reports.

### **WATER REPORTS:**

Next, the Board reviewed the water reports. Linda said that the person who works for the Bergen County environmental division and is an underground water specialist is very knowledgeable about all water related issued. He could possibly be scheduled to attend a future Board of Health meeting to address any questions. Fariba mentioned the Board's request to Bill Beattie at the Park Ridge Water Company, for providing maps of all the well locations in town, and distributed copies to the members. Dr. Clark asked about a cover letter from the Water Company to alert the Board of any unusual findings. Fred Singer said that all reports furnished by the Water Company are within the parameters of State and Federal regulations and many times far below those standards. It was agreed that the maps should be kept by the Secretary, and brought back to the meetings when reviewing the water reports.

Fred Singer added that a few weeks ago there was a water main break on Pascack Road near Woodcliff Ave., which affected the water pressure for at least a few hours. However, the problem was taken care of rather quickly. Dr. Haas said that sometimes during adverse weather conditions the quality of water can be affected and perhaps the Water Company should be conducting a test at those times. Dr. Sperber said one of the questions to ask the water expert from the County, could be to find out what is reasonable as far as testing the water, in relation to everyone's health and what should the testing standards be.

John Frey commented on the Secretary's memo concerning questions for the EPA and their response, as to the source of perchlorate contamination originating from the local nursery, based on the Water Company's findings. Dr.

Haas asked about the BMW's major construction and its effect on the water. Fariba said that Thomas Budroe from the EPA did not believe that BMW affected the quality of water, since the Chilean nitrate component is used mostly in fertilizers for flowers, and not trees or lawns. Dr. Clark said that before BMW moved to town, the land was used for farming and they could have used various types of fertilizers. Fred Singer added that even arsenic was used for fruit trees in the past, and its level fluctuates in the water reports from time to time. Fariba said the EPA in general emphasized that none of the chemical levels in the water exceed standards and limits set by the State.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Haas asked Linda Quinn about Puffer Fish based on the communication received from the County. Linda said that Puffer Fish is illegal in this country, and very dangerous, if not cleaned properly. There was a case of someone becoming very ill in Fairview, having eaten at a restaurant there. Pursuant to some investigation it was discovered that the restaurant had a separate menu for its Asian customers that listed Puffer Fish in Korean. Some places that serve the item call it by different names, and there is only one approved Japanese importer that is allowed to distribute the fish in the States.

Dr. Clark commented about the e-mail received about feral cats that are trapped and not treated humanely. Linda said the County will trap the stray cats if people do not continue feeding them and allow traps on their property to catch them. In most cases though once trapped the County will euthanize them. The organization sending the e-mail is trying to protect the stray cats by sterilizing and returning them to their habitats. Feral cats usually are not adoptable since they are wild. Dr. Haas asked about contacting the National Wildlife and Audubon Society in reference to the above to find out what their position is, and if they have a recommendation.

Dr. Haas mentioned the communication about Domestic Violence, and its relation to the Board of Health. Fariba said it is providing us with information for available resources. Dr. Haas also asked about the contaminated toothpaste manufactured in China and where it might be sold. Linda said those type of items are usually sold in discount or dollar stores. The larger stores and Supermarkets are notified right away of any problems and would not stock the merchandise in question. Fred Singer said that the issue of Domestic Violence presents a problem in town and there are quite a few cases happening every month. Dr. Sperber suggested that there should be a section included in the Fall Newsletter regarding Domestic Violence.

Dr. Haas asked about Pertussis. Dr. Clark said that the vaccine recommendation has changed to include adolescents and adults as well. Dr. Sperber added that for adults, they should receive the immunization when they are

due for their next tetanus shot. Sometimes persistent coughing could be the result of pertussis also. The vaccination is mostly to prevent the spread of the disease.

Dr. Haas also asked to add a section in the newsletter about ice hazards, and falling during the winter season.

Dr. Sperber asked Linda Quinn about other Boards of Health and if they have considered any health hazards associated with the FAA situation. Linda said that Rockland County feels very strongly about the airplanes flying over this area. Fred Singer added that the Pascack Valley Mayor's Association has engaged a law firm that specializes in the environmental and FAA matters, to pursue the above case. He said it is a good idea for the Board of Health to point out the health hazards resulting from poor air quality and fumes, and send a letter to the Mayor's Association and Mayor and Council, as well as the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Senators, etc... in support.

Dr. Haas asked about whether the soil has been tested at BMW for contamination. Linda said she will check with the Building Code Official, since before the construction takes place the soil usually gets tested.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Dog/Cat ordinance was reviewed in reference to issuing a summons in case of expired licenses. The Secretary pointed out that under section 104-29, of the ordinance, there is reference made to fines and penalties in case of violations of any part of the ordinance including not licensing your animal. In addition there is a late fee after January 31<sup>st</sup>. Based on the contents of the ordinance the Board agreed that the Sanitarian is allowed to issue a summons for expired licenses.

There was a motion made and accepted, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be on October 16, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Fariba Negahban  
Board of Health Secretary

Approved by:

Elaine Metlitz  
President, Board of Health