

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016

Time, Place Presiding: The Board of Health held their regular meeting on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. Mr. Nicastro called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The Pledge to the Flag was recited. Claudia Tomasello, Board Secretary, read the "Open Public Meetings Act."

Present: Mr. Nicastro, Dr. Abrams, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Kana, Dr. Wallack, Dr. Ross

Absent: Dr. Miccio

Mr. Nicastro recognized the Health Officer, Mr. Trevor Weigle, and Attorney, Peter King. The Board of Health Secretary, Claudia Tomasello, was also recognized.

Minutes: Mr. Nicastro asked for a motion to approve the minutes for June, 2016. Dr. Abrams requested that the words "a larvae side" be a single word "larvaeside." Mr. Kana made the motion seconded by Mrs. Cooper. Dr. Wallack abstained, all other members were in favor.

Correspondence: All correspondence was sent with the packets.

**Written Reports:
(Health Officer,
Animal Control,
Registrar, and Nurse)** Mr. Nicastro asked for a motion to approve the June and July, 2016 Written Reports. Dr. Ross made the motion, seconded by Mr. Kana. Dr. Wallack asked about the July water samples. He wondered why seven pools were unsatisfactory. Mr. Weigle explained that this was after the few rain events we had in the town. This was incidental contamination from the rain water runoff. Country Farms and The Pavillion Lounge also have water problems. Country Farms will be hooking up to the public water system and the County is working with The Pavillion Lounge. Mr. Kana asked what kind of contamination is involved. Mr. Weigle explained that this is total coliform E.coli. Mr. Kana asked if we test the water at Budd Lake. Mr. Weigle explained that we do still test at the lake. It was discussed that people are still swimming at the beach. Mr. Nicastro explained that it is not open to the public. Mrs. Cooper questioned to whether there should be signs stating that there is no swimming. Mr. Nicastro explained that council made the decision, with attorney's advice, that there should be no signs. The Board felt that this may protect the town legally, but what about the safety of the residents? Mrs. Cooper had a question on the June Report, page five, about the massage licenses. She wanted to

know if these licenses were new or renewed. Mr. Weigle explained that these are new owners. Most likely they just opened under a new owner's name and in the same locations. Mr. Kana asked about the gas generator investigation. Mr. Weigle explained that this was a noise concern. Seeing there were no other questions or comments regarding the June and July, 2016 Written Reports, Mr. Nicastro asked for roll call. All members were in favor.

Ordinance First Reading: None

Ordinance Second Reading: 2016-2 Ordinance of the Mount Olive Board of Health Amending Chapter 415 of the Township Code Entitled, Food Handling Establishments. Dr. Abrams made the motion for the adoption of the Ordinance. This was seconded by Mrs. Cooper. All members were in favor.

Resolutions: None

New Business: There was a discussion involving whether or not we should have the September meeting since the Health Officer will be on vacation. One idea was that we could still have the meeting. The Board would email Mr. Weigle with any questions regarding the Monthly Reports. It was decided that Mr. Weigle would see if a meeting was needed and let all Board members know.

Old Business: None

Legal Business: None

Public Portion: Three residents were present to discuss their concerns about Dr. Vecchione and why his office wasn't closed and why he is still practicing. The residents have children that were treated by Dr. Vecchione. Peter King, Attorney, also explained that his daughter was a patient of Dr. Vecchione. Mr. King explained that the violations were issued and once that happens the State investigates it, hence taking the case away from the Mount Olive Board of Health. He is innocent until proven guilty. The State did come in to investigate and some remedial action was being taken. Mr. Weigle added that the State Department of Health does not do enforcement on doctor's offices, this is the responsibility of the Board of Dentistry. They are the only ones that can suspend or revoke licenses and issue disciplinary actions to one of their licensed members. At the moment, they are still investigating this.

The resident asked how the patients who had issues were notified of this. Mr. Weigle explained that a doctor in Atlantic Health System noticed more than one case of endocarditis and also figured out that they had visited the same oral surgeon. He then informed the State who took on the investigation. Mr. Weigle also stated that all fifteen of the patients had gone under evasive interveinous sedation. When the State did their investigation they noted some less than stellar practices. Which included pre-opened, single use vials for

multiple patients. Medications were pre-drawn in advance of a procedure, the use of non-sterile products, multiple use alcohol dispensers, storage of medication in a locker in a staff bathroom, and poor hygiene.

One resident was also concerned with HIV and Hepatitis C and the chance of contracting these. Mr. Weigle explained that he has been in contact with the State regarding other blood born diseases. He is presently waiting for a response from them. Once this is received he will share the information. Mr. Weigle explained that he is obligated to tell all people with health concerns to talk to their Health Care Provider. Mr. Kana asked if Dr. Vecchione has made the changes to his practice that the State requested. Mr. Weigle explained that according to the report these changes were made and no cases of endocarditis were reported after these precautions were put in place in January of 2015. There was also an infectious disease expert brought in as well. Mr. Kana stated that there was only reference to one organism, *Enterococcus faecalis* (E. faecalis). Dr. Ross states that he finds it baffling that one organism was the only one distributed over a period of two years. Mrs. Cooper stated that this organism is not normally found in the mouth. This is a GI Tract/ Urinary Tract organism. Mr. King stated that the one thing we may want to do is ask the State to make a repository so that if there are any concerns they can come to the office and look at those. This can be done thru an OPRA request so that we have any and all documents on hand. It was agreed that Mr. King would request these documents.

Mr. Weigle stated that while looking at the report on page four, the comment section of the State's report, it says "valve replacement," they are referring to patients who had a valve replacement in the hospital due to this, not that they had a history of valve replacement. The only history involved was for a murmur. Mrs. Cooper stated she understood that the valve replacement was a result of the Endocarditis. Dr. Ross stated that someone with a murmur is way more susceptible to having bacteria find a way to remain in the heart to vegetate. All Board members stated that a murmur is a very common condition. Dr. Abrams stated that about 80% of people have a murmur. Based on the severity of it determines whether you need antibiotics or not. Dr. Ross stated that there is the term "functional murmur." Many, many, many people have murmurs, but it does not affect our function and is not lethal.

One of the residents asked about the one death. Dr. Ross stated that he believed the death was the result of a complication from the surgery rather than directly from the infection. Mr. Kana stated his concern that there was an initial inspection and then a follow-up to make sure the improvements were made, but it was noted that at the follow-up not everything was copacetic. The members questioned as to whether there was a third inspection. Mr. Weigle and Mr. King did not know if there was an additional inspection. Mrs. Cooper asked if we could send a letter to The New Jersey Board of Dentistry and express our concerns that Dr. Vecchione is still practicing. Mr. King stated that we can pass a Resolution expressing our concern. Mrs. Cooper felt it should go on record expressing our feelings about this critical situation. Mr. King stated that he can definitely have a Resolution put together. Dr. Ross stated that until we have all the details, and he still feels there is so much we don't know, he isn't ready to pass judgment. There is a

great deal that the Board doesn't understand that happened in this case. Dr. Ross stated that he doesn't even know what he physically did to transmit the Enterococcus into the patients. But, he does trust the Board of Dentistry to act very effectively when their time comes. We can't lock people up the day they are charged.

The resident asked if we knew if any of the patients were diagnosed with anything else. Dr. Abrams stated that as far as we know it was just that one bacteria, as of today. Mr. Nicastro stated that we will have to gather all the facts from the State Board of Dentistry and have an accurate record and be able to speak to them at that point. Mr. Nicastro asked if there was anything else they'd like to address. Mr. King told the residents that they are welcome to OPRA the State and get any information on their own. The residents thanked the Board for their time and help.

Board Comments:

Dr. Wallack and Dr. Ross both expressed their thanks for the new format of the Inspections and Minutes, this has been a big help.

Mrs. Cooper asked about the Splash Pad being closed again. Mr. Nicastro explained that there was an issue with an electrical panel from the storm the other day. She also asked if we test the water there. Mr. Weigle explained that we do this on a regular basis during the Splash Pad's operating season.

Adjournment:

Mr. Nicastro asked for a motion to adjourn, Dr. Abrams made the motion, seconded by Dr. Ross. All members were in favor. There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Joe Nicastro, Chairman

Claudia Tomasello,
Board of Health, Secretary