

BOUND BROOK BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2010
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President A. Robinson at 5:40 P.M. with the following statement:

“This meeting held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the Law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice being forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on February 22, 2010.”

ROLL CALL:

The following members were present: Angela Robinson, Helen Goodrich, Barbara Lobman, Lisa Slater, and Mary Straub.

Others in Attendance: Councilman Petti; Kevin G. Sumner, Health Officer; Heather Ross, REHS.

The following members were absent: Judy Bailey, Debbie Cozza, Mary Fuentes, and Diane Scarpulla.

PUBLIC SESSION:

No public was present. Public portion of meeting closed.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

M. Straub moved for acceptance of the minutes of the January 14, 2010 meeting and the notes from the February 11, 2010 meeting. Motion seconded by H. Goodrich. All in favor.

VOUCHERS:

L. Slater moved to pay the \$50.00 voucher by M.A. Schamberger for typing the minutes of the January 14, 2010 meeting. Motion seconded by H. Goodrich. All in favor.

COMMISSION:

K. Sumner presented an update on the H1N1 vaccination efforts and the current status of disease in the community. He reported that the amount of disease and illness associated with H1N1 is decreasing across the state and in Bound Brook. He advised that the Commission will not be sponsoring any more public clinics at this time due to a lack of interest and participation by the public. If things change in the spring this will be

reevaluated, but the resource commitment is too great to service the few attending. A different approach will be used to access populations not previously vaccinated.

K. Sumner distributed schedule of local and Commission Board meetings for 2010. K. Sumner advised members that representation at the Commission meetings by Bound Brook Board of Health members is really important, particularly at this time. He encouraged the Board to have their representatives attend such that they have a voice, have an understanding of what is going on, and so that the other Commission members realize that Bound Brook is still an active participant. Some are translating lack of attendance by Board members to lack of interest.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. K. Sumner reported that he has heard no further information about the Borough's plans for public health services. He reported on the meeting with the Mayor and Council as noted in February's meeting notes. Angela Robinson, President, Lisa Slater, Vice President, William Nehls, Commission President, and K. Sumner attended the meeting. The Mayor and Council expressed their dire financial position and that they are looking at any ways to save money. All of the above attendees expressed to the Mayor and Council the need to look at the scope of services being proposed and to compare equitably with the services currently being provided. Although the cost from another agency may be less it may also not include services that are currently being provided by the Commission. For example, the Commission provides Right to Know training and Blood-borne Pathogen training for all municipal services at no cost to the Borough. These are costly services that are mandated to be provided. Another example is the nuisance/housing inspections and enforcement that is conducted by H. Ross. These are services that are not mandated and depending upon the provider may not be included as a service. Thus it is critical to understand the scope of services being provided for the cost.

K. Sumner presented a copy of a proposed resolution for the Commission. This resolution increases the time a municipality must give to leave the Commission. Some Commission members have concern that if a town leaves the Commission during a budget year it will have a significant impact on the remaining members. State law requires a minimum notice of 6 months. The proposed resolution would increase this time to two years. At the last meeting of the Commission it was asked that this be brought to each local Board of Health for input. Following a lengthy discussion, members expressed that while they understand the concern and agree in concept they also feel that the timing is bad and that two years is too long. They suggested that at some future date they would be in favor of a one (1) year notice that coincides with the budgeting cycle. There were concerns that any action taken at this time would be viewed as a threat and would force Bound Brook to give notice. Members advised that there position should be expressed at the Commission meeting. K. Sumner again stressed the importance of their representation at the Commission meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members reviewed the activities reports for January 2010.

K. Sumner read the School Nurse's Reports for January. They were placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, M. Straub moved to adjourn at 6:40 P.M. Seconded by L. Slater. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin G. Sumner
Health Officer/Secretary