

WANAQUE BOARD OF HEALTH  
September 17, 2014

This is the Regular Meeting of the Wanaque Board of Health held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 in the Municipal Building, and called to order by President Frank Riccardelli at 7:30 p.m.

President Riccardelli read the following Sunshine Law: THIS IS THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WANAQUE BOARD OF HEALTH. ADEQUATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN AND IT HAS BEEN DULY ADVERTISED BY THE PLACEMENT OF A NOTICE IN THE SUBURBAN TRENDS AS E-MAILED ON DECEMBER 22, 2013 AND A NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE BOROUGH OF WANAQUE.

**ROLL CALL**

Member Riccardelli, Member Bertelloni, Member Van Rossen, Member Vuksanic and Member Rich answered Roll Call. Member Stiansen was absent. Member Joan Bender has resigned.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Christopher Chapman, Health Officer, and Bernadette McDavitt, PHN.

**MINUTES**

On a motion from Member Bertelloni, seconded by Member Van Rossen and on Roll Call, the Minutes of April 16, 2014 were accepted.

**FINANCIAL & MONTHLY REPORTS**

On a motion by Member Bertelloni, seconded by Member Van Rossen and on roll call financial reports and monthly reports for April, May, June, July and August 2014 were accepted.

## NURSES'S REPORT

Bernie passed out the autumn wellness schedules and flyers for save the date Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> flu clinic and also a second clinic on Nov. 7<sup>t</sup> at Wanaque Reserve.

Bernie said it's been very busy. For a while she was seeing fewer children at the child health clinics. At the last clinic there were 11 children. It's coming back up again. A lot of our clients are foreigners and its good we're doing what we do keeping the town safe is the bottom line. It's been an active time for us. Bernie said each quarter she has been writing an article for Between Neighbors Staff which is a quarterly magazine put out by the Wanaque Reserve Community. Bernie passed out an article she did on addiction. She said a big focus is on addiction and hoped this article will shed some attention to the problem. Member Bertelloni asked if there's a big problem in town. Bernie replied there are problems everywhere. Member Riccardelli said we had suicides and overdoses. Another article she handed out was on sleep deprivation. Bernie said we are dealing with a lot of issues. We're dealing with communicable disease issues which take up a lot of time and attention following contacts and patients and making sure they're getting proper treatment.

Bernie's last clinic was in August for the children. I don't know if you realize but I had to reduce the number of clinics because of the cost. So I have clinics every other month rather than every month. If it continues to be as it has been in the past that will need to be changed and we'll need to increase the number of clinics. It is the type of thing that you are doing a complete exam and complete care for each child and it takes time. We have a pediatrician, that's the major part of the cost. Thankfully some are going to Affordable Care Act and getting insurance. So that's a positive thing. I am getting a lot of foreigners who have no insurance and at this point will not be able to get insurance. If you don't immunize them then disease carries through the community so you immunize them. Member Bertelloni asked legal foreigners or illegal, Bernie replied both. I'm sure you know about the number of children coming over the borders. Well we've gotten some. Member Bertelloni questioned if they come here to find homes or to seek out relatives or are they on their own. Bernie said basically the husband sends the wife and kids over. They're Spanish speaking and unless you know Spanish it's going to take some time but I handled the situation by getting the school involved because they had a school aged child and an ESL teacher did the interpreting. We have problems with immunization records. That's one of the major problems. I do have standing orders for immunizing children. I require a prescription from a doctor so I send patients for a physical exam to St. Mary's in Pompton Lakes when someone's going into the school system. On Monday nights at 7 PM they have a free clinic.

So when they see the patient the doctor writes a note, give immunizations as needed, and they come to me on Tuesday or Wednesday for the shots. This helps a lot. I send a lot of people over there. They see a lot of people because they have a high Mexican population there and a lot of immigrants. Some legal some are not. They're supposed to go into a certain area through INS and get examined and vaccinated. Member Bertelloni asked what is INS. Bernie replied Immigration and Naturalization Service. So I asked ok do you have information from INS. INS is supposed to give them a sheet checking off what they gave them and they tell the family that they need to go for boosters and the dates and I should get that information and follow up with the boosters. Except if they don't go through INS they don't have anything. It's this type of thing that takes up a lot of time and energy and requires a lot of communication with the schools. But I'm thankful they had a child in the school and the school had the foresight to send them to me and we were able to take care of it. Member Riccardelli said if we have a handful we can take care of them and asked Bernie to let us know if the numbers start climbing. The town could only do so much. Bernie said she wouldn't give out vaccine just because you walk in her door. I do have standing orders from my pediatrician but if I don't know the child they have to be seen by a physician, it's for their benefit as well as ours. Chris asked if there is vaccine available from the state. Bernie said she gets vaccine from the state and that's what she uses for the children. It is free the vaccine from the state. The VFC provides us with vaccine for the children's programs and it's not actually from the state only but Federal. It comes down from the federal government which gives an allotment to the state and the state gives us whatever we order. That's how it's handled. I planned a children's clinic for October 22. I'll see how many children I have then. I think a lot because they will be coming also for the flu vaccine. I have been lucky to have volunteer nurses, volunteers to register people and on occasion my son Adam, who is a nurse, helps. Member Riccardelli asked if the immigrants who come to the clinics are reasonable healthy. Bernie said the ones she has since recently have been and that's a good thing. The atmosphere and the violence and wars they have seen must be horrific. The ones I've seen have been very quiet. Chris asked if there are any illnesses that Bernie sees in any of them. Bernie replied it will take some time but no. Communicable disease reports have been more in the elderly such as Hepatitis C and B and a lot of Lyme.

Bernie mentioned the Wanaque Feed The Hungry program. Once a month food is picked up in a truck at the Community Food Bank in Hillside. Wanaque Reserve Out Reach Committee pays for the rental of the truck. We have about 60 families we take care of monthly. Bernie has been getting a lot of phone calls for other reasons such as rental assistance, utility assistance, people being evicted, a lot of problems recently. She's been doing a lot of referral for Social Service cases.

## HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Chris explained there was an issue at the Holiday Inn which Gina had gone to. The issue was regarding mold. Turns out there was a problem with a pool pump malfunctioning which leaked water into a room which became humid and there was a mold issue in that room. The whole room is being renovated. There were building permits issued on the renovation. A random inspection was done and that was ok. At this point it's under control and any mold that was there has been eliminated. Right now it's not a problem. The present manager is new and in Gina's opinion is much more on top of things than the previous manager

Chris said he received calls about odor issues coming from the sewerage treatment plant. Member Bertelloni questioned didn't Gina go out to inspect the sewerage plant for odors. Was that in this time period? Chris said he didn't know if it was in this time period. Chris said he's been over there a couple of times and talked to Greg White about the problems of the odors coming from there. Member Riccadelli asked is it different then from in the past the odors coming from there. Chris said he didn't think so. You do get odors that emanate when a truck is there processing. Member Riccardelli said trucks come there from all over. They do have deodorizers and he needs to be making sure that when the trucks are there the deodorizers are running. Chris said he has been there a couple of times and they haven't been running. Chris said he's talked to Greg White about it. Member Riccardelli said ever since he's been in this town it just happens from time to time, sometimes because of damp weather, or heavy rains. The odor was even there when they had the compost pile. Member Bertelloni said she has been here for eight years and this is the worst it's ever been so something has changed in the processing of the waste at that sewer plant. She said many many of the residents are now in a close relationship with the DEP. Today I spoke to Michelle Newman from the County Health Department in Paterson. She wants to be called when we smell an odor. She said because they're shorthanded and because of the distance by the time she gets up here with the piece of apparatus that she has to measure the odor it's sometimes too late. My question to you as the health officer is do we have the capability of measuring odors and if we do why do we have to wait for the county department of health to come up. Chris replied a couple of things. I'm not familiar with what the odor sensing device is that she has, I don't know how she does it. Member Bertelloni said it is a device that could test the odors and she would have to remain in the area for 20 minutes to do so. Chris said I'm sure she has a device and the reason she has it is because they're the lead agency for the county and it's not something that you would use every day in one town to justify the cost of it. It probably has to be calibrated frequently and you have to have someone on staff that's trained to use it and maintains their training by using it.

I'll look into the device, what it is exactly. Sometimes you can get combustible gas meters which will pick up carbon based compounds. If you don't have the training you really don't have any basis legally to do anything. So obviously she has the training if she's doing this. I know Michelle, I'll talk to her and find out what exactly she has. Member Bertelloni said it was a terrible summer for odors not only for the Wanaque Reserve but also for Back Beach, they too have had a problem. You smell it on Ringwood Ave. by the 815 restaurant. The odor is overwhelming in the community. It is not only a Wanaque Reserve issue and it's my concern that it is a health issue. Chris said he hasn't spoken to Michelle about it. Said he'll call her and find out the details on it and if it's something she can't be around all the time for maybe we can be more accessible. He'll find out about training and maybe they will loan the device to us or we can get one. Member Riccardelli asked how frequent the odor is. Member Bertelloni said it's every day. Chris asked any particular time of the day. Member Bertelloni said she came home at 9 o'clock last night and smelled it. She said she's in building 10 farthest to the right and as you come in the main gate you can smell it. When you come out of the Club House you can smell it. It comes and goes. It's not constant but almost a daily occurrence to the point now that the whole community smells it, not only the buildings on the far right. Member Riccardelli asked if it is a sewerage smell. Member Bertelloni said oh yea. Member Bertelloni said they had Greg White and all his Board Members at a meeting and they talk about this vapor they now use to emanate the air so it hides the fecal odor, I guess, but it doesn't seem to be working. Like I said in 8 years we never had a problem, this year it has been absolutely terrible. Chris asked is it mostly in the evening or during the day. Member Bertelloni said she would say mostly in the evening but sometimes you could be sitting by the pool and get a whiff. Chris said he'll swing by tonight. Member Riccardelli said he would guess you wouldn't need any machine to detect the odor if it really smells. But if it hasn't been happening and now it is something has changed. Maybe some suction pumps aren't working or who knows. Chris said he will investigate. Member Bertelloni said we should at least have some input into it since many agencies are involved in it. Chris said if we could get an idea of the conditions, the time of day, what the weather was like, humidity and things like that. Member Ricardelli said there are somethings you have no control over. Said he thinks the goal here is to find out if and why and if there's something they could do about it. Is somebody leaving something on or not turning something off or something like that. Member Bertelloni said Greg White talks about bugs that are in the trucks are different than the bacteria in the sewer plant that comes through the pipes. They talk about lack of oxygen in the circulator system and on and on and on they went about all these issues. Chris said the other thing to consider when you run a test is the wind direction, is it high humidity, is the wind going up against the ridge that's in the back against the

mountain, things like that and maybe get a handle on why the odor is there and also to find out from Greg White if they are doing something differently and how far back has this been happening. Member Bertelloni said a good eight months. Daily emails come in from everybody in the community. Chris said maybe to go over and watch whoever is dumping and how they do it. Chris said he will let you know.

Member Riccardelli asked Chris if he knew the status of the property with all the horses on it on Burnside Place. Chris said he understands that Gina was involved in that a lot. He was with her on inspection one day. There's water ponding on that site and it smells. Member Riccardelli said there are way too many horses for the size of the property. The horses do what horses do. They clean it up for a while. Member Bertelloni questioned is there an ordinance for the number of horses allowed. Member Riccardelli said that's murky. Apparently the ASPCA has been there and they Okayed the horses that are on the property but there's still standing water and it doesn't drain, apparently its clay soil so when the horses do what they do it sits there and on hot days it could be pretty nasty, flies and everything else. It seems as if it's one of those areas where they're really not doing anything wrong although again it's a health problem. Chris said Gina and I had spoken a few months ago to the owner. They were going to do a test hole there of the soil that's underneath where it floods and the idea was basically to see if that water level is perched on the surface of the ground and it's not continuous with the ground water and based on that design have a field out there with stone and sand in order to allow everything to drain down through a permeable layer and he promised as I recall to do this and I haven't heard anything else from Gina about it. It was being looked at. He had an idea for doing something & he was very enthusiastic about it. I'll find out what's going on there. According to the owner some tress where no longer there. They came down during hurricane Sandy. Chris asked how long does his history go back. Member Riccadelli said it could be a hundred years for all he knows. Chris said there's definitely a problem with the water ponding and we were looking for a solution and the owner promised he was going to do something about it. Whether or not he has I have to ask Gina. Member Riccardelli said apparently it's not illegal the number of horses. To me it looks pretty dense. I guess we have no power over that. Chris said he'll find out about the restriction on the number of horses. Member Riccardelli asked for any comments. No comments.

Member Bertelloni asked if we have a Welfare Department in town. Bernie said no. We did have a Welfare director here who retired. I also send them to Passaic County Board of Social Service Agency on Ringwood Ave. but they can't help a lot so they send them back to me. I know of some agencies and I have some literature I give to them to go out and seek help in different places and I have to tell some people I'm sorry but I can't help them. A lot of places don't have the emergency funds they use to have to give out.

Member Riccardelli asked if there was anything more to discussion or anything we missed.

Board secretary said she received a letter of resignation from Member Joan Bender.

Member Riccardelli mentioned he'll be doing the rabies clinic this year in Wanaque on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Member Bertelloni seconded by Member Van Rossen and on Roll Call, meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Smerklo, Secretary