

A regular meeting of the Bloomfield Board of Health, as established by public record in the Bloomfield Life and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building in January 2005, was called to order on December 7, 2005 at 6:18 p.m. in the Health Department Room 111 in the Municipal Building.

Roll Call by President James McLaughlin showed the following members to be present:

James McLaughlin, President
Patricia Barker, Board Member
Lisa Jasinski, Board Member
Gloria Shorter, Board Member

Absent was Lissette Figueroa, Board Member.

Also present was Councilwoman Dunigan, Council Liaison, Natalie Pawlenko, Manager, Performance Improvement and Development, Division of Local Public Health Practice & Regional Systems Development, NJ State Department of Health & Senior Services, Ellen Powley, FoBAS, Afia Bediako, Intern and Trevor J. Weigle, Director.

Minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting were approved on a motion by G. Shorter and second by L. Jasinski.

President McLaughlin asked if any member of the public wished to be heard on a matter of public health. No one came forward.

November licenses were accepted on a motion by G. Shorter and second by P. Barker.

November communications were discussed/reviewed by the Board. The Director was asked about the 2006 Nutley contract for animal control services. He received a letter on November 3, 2005 from the Mayor of Nutley refusing to sign the contract. The issue was the trapping and removal of cats. Nutley wants to trap cats and be able to drop off cats at their convenience. The letter also requested a meeting to discuss the contract. The Board will review the Nutley contract and advise the Director whether to change or leave the contract as is.

The Director presented his monthly report for December.

- The Director reported there was no more flu vaccine.
- The 2006 Capital budget was resubmitted to the Town Administrator prioritizing the Department's request and State mandated items. A request to purchase a Lead Paint Analyzer and a vehicle for Animal Control were considered state mandated.
- The Director was asked about the meeting with Thomas Woodard, Director of Senior Services and Community Health for Columbus Hospital. The Director reported that they met to discuss the planning for the annual health fair in May.

Director's November reports were accepted on a motion by P. Barker and second by G. Shorter.

The Director reported that 2005's projected revenue will be met or exceed by the end of the year. He explained the revenue increase was partially due to the flu shot Medicare reimbursement which went from approximately \$18 to \$33.

The Director stated that the 2005 4th Qtr. Interlocal contracts were billed in November in order to receive the revenue for this year.

There were no questions on the November Financial Report. The November Financial Report was approved on a motion by G. Shorter and second by L. Jasinski.

Councilwoman Dunigan reported on how the Director was doing a great job and the letter to the Editor in the Bloomfield Life commending him and the Health Department. She informed the Board that the Bloomfield Advisory Board offered their help with the Secondhand Smoke Ordinance.

The Director and Board reviewed and modified a Secondhand Smoke Ordinance draft.

The Board had questions to whether another Department will be required to enforce the ordinance and if it could become a town ordinance? The Director will address these issues at the Friday's Mayor's meeting. The first reading will be at the January meeting and then placed on the Town Council agenda for approval. The Board will approve the ordinance even if the Town Council does not approve it.

Natalie Pawlenko, Manager, Performance Improvement and Development, Division of Local Public Health Practice & Regional Systems Development, NJ State Department of Health & Senior Services gave a presentation on the Local Boards of Health Practice Standards. She informed to the Board there are ten (10) essential services which are to monitor health, diagnosis and investigate, inform, educate and empower, mobilize community partnership, develop policies, enforce laws, link to and provide care, assure a competent workforce and evaluate. Today there is recognition that there are no boundaries around towns and that we need to work in partnerships and harness resources with other communities. She requested the Board to think strategically about public health and not just in Bloomfield or Essex County but develop partnerships, leveraging resources and move in a direction that public health has not began to move in. Local Boards of Health are legally accountable and need to be familiar and know the responsibilities of such legislation. She reminded the Board about Bloomfield's Health Needs Assessment which was a local assessment for what people considered to be high priority health issues. Essex Regional Commission added that information to the County wide health needs assessment. She informed the Board that eleven (11) Health Officer's in the Essex County reported mental health to be the No. 1 issue. She reminded the Board to communicate with other local boards of health to assist with strategic planning, building a local health capacity and emergency planning which should be done collaboratively. The Director thanked Ms. Pawlenko for her presentation.

The 2006 Board of Health Meeting Schedule will be the second Wednesday of each month and at 6:15 p.m. in the Mayor's conference room (except certain holidays) which will be approved at the Wednesday, January 11, 2006 reorganization meeting. The schedule will be published after the reorganization meeting. Reorganization meeting agenda will include readopting the By Laws, Election of Officers and Appointments of Standing Committees – Financial and Budget, Long Range Planning and Health Education and Advocacy.

The Director and the Board reviewed the 2006 Budget Request. He explained the budget increase had three (3) factors which are the following:

- Salary and Wage increase which is based on contractual salary and union agreements.
- Increase cost of vaccines - offset by the revenue.
- A request for an increase of \$50,000 from last year's budget for Consulting and Professional services; \$25,000 for environmental consulting and \$25,000 for legal services.

The Director explained that PMK Group was paid \$20,000 for services rendered for fumes at the high school and \$3,700 was paid to Hillman Environmental Group for services of a site assessment which were not anticipated. The Director informed the Board the funds came from excess salary and wages but had expressed concerns that next year there may be no excess funds. The Director explained the additional overtime request (\$9,500) is mostly for sanitary inspectors. Animal Control services was granted \$185,500 last year and the Department's requesting \$199,000 for 2006. A decrease in the Board of Education contract for private school nursing of \$17,000 will be reflected in the number of hours worked in those schools. Human Services had a small contractual increase cost for a new psychiatrist. The Director explained the Administration of Public Assistance account has a balance of \$29,000 and will be rolled over to 2006. The Director informed the Board that a special meeting will be held in February with the Mayor and Council regarding budget requests.

The Board unanimously approved the 2006 Budget Request for the Department.

A motion was made by P. Barker and seconded by G. Shorter to adjourn to closed session at 8:32 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by L. Jasinski and seconded by P. Barker. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trevor J. Weigle, Director
Secretary to the Board