

BOUND BROOK BOARD OF HEALTH
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President J. Bailey at 6:00 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 Meeting Notice being forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on February 13, 2017.”

ROLL CALL:

The following members were present: Judy Bailey, Helen Goodrich, Barbara Lobman, Angela Robinson, and Alberto Torregroza.

The following were also present: Construction Official Joe Costa, Council Liaison Gomez, Administrator Herrera, and Kevin G. Sumner, Health Officer.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Costa was introduced to the Board. No other public was present. Public portion of meeting closed.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

B. Lobman moved for acceptance of the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting. Motion seconded by A. Robinson. All in favor.

COMMISSION:

K. Sumner advised the members that the Commission Reorganization Meeting was held Monday February 6 and Dr. Jon Fourre was elected President, Mr. Greg Riley was elected Vice President, and Ms. Jean Mazet was elected Treasurer. Routine reorganization actions were taken such as appointments and approvals of administrative actions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Culture of Health – K. Sumner advised the Board that the grant activities are moving forward with regular meetings of the leadership team. The leadership team in collaboration with the Bloustein School at Rutgers University has conducted several focus groups and key informant interviews to gather information from the community about perceived needs and ideas related to how we can improve the culture of health in the community. This data-gathering

phase is being culminated with a community survey that will be conducted through March. All of the data will then be assimilated and used to prepare a “Blueprint for Health” for the community. This blueprint will then be vetted by community representatives to assure a direction the community will support.

- B. 2017 Budget – J. Bailey advised that the issue regarding full-time and part-time and the final budget still has not been resolved, as the Board has previously approved a budget for full-time services. However, Mr. Herrera is still insisting on a reduced budget. Mr. Herrera stated this is his third request for a second proposal and he stated that he is giving a deadline of Wednesday, February 22, 2017 to receive it or he will provide a different number for the Borough’s budget. Mr. Gomez stated that he heard how the Board expressed at its last meeting their desire not to reduce services and so he is not looking for a reduction in hours, but is looking for a reduction in the budget. J. Bailey again reiterated that she believes there was an honest misunderstanding about the role of the health department related to code enforcement as the understanding of the Board seems very different from that of Mr. Gomez and Mr. Herrera. As requested by the Board at its last meeting K. Sumner has provided a more detailed breakdown of the code enforcement activities of the REHS. This report indicated that a majority of the activities that were reported to code enforcement were also activities that fall within the purview and responsibility of the health department. He also provided a copy of the current agreement from 2016.

Mr. Herrera disclosed to the Board that it has forced him to look elsewhere for another budget amount and as such, he approached the County for a proposal that he has received. The County proposal is approximately \$30,000.00 less than the Commission amount. He is asking the Board again to submit a different proposal. He recognizes that the Board does not need to match the County’s dollar amount, but needs to come closer than it currently is. Mr. Gomez expressed that he will support the Board with its decision. A copy of the County proposal was provided to Board members for their review.

The Board expressed frustration with how the requests from the administration keep changing. The first request was to consider reducing to part time. When the Board rejected that idea, the request changed to reducing the budget. K. Sumner reminded the members that by state statute they are responsible for determining the amount of services and the provider of the services. The Mayor and Council control the allocation of funds. He also reminded members that if Bound Brook opts to leave the Commission and receive services elsewhere the Borough has a statutory requirement to provide the Commission six months prior notice. Mr. Gomez disagreed with this point as he felt there was a contract in place that expired at the end of the year. K. Sumner attempted to explain that the Commission form of health services is not a contractual arrangement, but is authorized and regulated by state law.

A. Torregroza stated that a lot has been said but the Board needs to decide what its next step is. He suggested taking the weekend to review the County proposal

and then meeting again to determine its options. Members agreed and agreed to schedule a special meeting early next week. K. Sumner will provide the statutory language referencing the Board's responsibilities. He will also facilitate the meeting arrangements for Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm. K. Sumner will also try to arrange attendance at this meeting by Commission representatives and any changes to the budget will affect them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Activities Reports – Board members opted to table the activities reports until the budget issues are resolved.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Board, A. Robinson moved to adjourn, seconded by B. Lobman; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin G. Sumner
Health Officer