

# Stanhope Board of Health

September 8, 2010

President Theresa Romaine called the meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:00 p.m. Open Public Meeting Act 1030 statement was read as required by law.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Members present: B. Utz, J. Benson, D. Thistleton T. Romaine, M. Mahon, and M. McNeilly.**

**Absent: J. Gibbons**

**Also present: James Breiten, Registered Environmental Health Specialist**

## **Citizens to be Heard**

President Theresa Romaine opened the meeting to the public after advising attendees that there is a five (5) minute time limit for each speaker.

Brian Murphy – provided the Board with research he collected regarding cats. He requested the Board look into changing to the cat ordinance. People should not be allowed to let their cats roam freely. Domestic cats should not be outdoors. They kill birds, chipmunk and other natural wildlife. It's dangerous for them, they can be hit by cars. He found that now that he keeps his cats indoors his veterinary bills have gone down. Mr. Murphy second recommendation was that like dogs the license fee for cats not spayed or neutered be higher unless they are breeders. People who don't have their cat neutered or spayed outside contribute to the problem. He referred to paperwork provided to the Board. He doesn't believe just saying don't feed the cat is going to reduce the feral cat population. He doesn't want to see cats euthanized unless they are diseased. T. Romaine informed Mr. Murphy that we would review the paperwork provided. Mr. Murphy asked what we were going to present to the Council. T. Romaine commented that we propose to use up to two thousand dollars of the Animal Trust Fund to help offset the cost of spaying and neutering cats. Mr. Murphy mentioned Mr. Steins providing a copy of the State Statue on harboring and commented that he thought requiring licensing of cats that people harbor as not being practical. Mr. Murphy understands the reasons a TNR program would not work in Stanhope. He stated that the Mount Olive TNR program only has 6 out of about 30 volunteers left.

Mr. Murphy commented about a neighbor who lets his cat out and how that cat harasses Mr. Murphy's cats. He would like an avenue to pursue where he could complain about the cat being in his yard. Jim Breiten commented that he could get involved if a cat was causing a nuisance but it would have to be a pretty significance nuisance. Jim mentioned spraying the cat with water to discourage the cat's behavior. Mr. Murphy is interested in being given a tool that would enable him to file a complaint against his neighbor for the cat's behavior. He's not asking for the ACO to come out and trap. He wants to be able to go to the Police and file a complaint.

Seeing no one further from the public wishing to speak, President Romaine closed the public portion of the meeting.

Minutes of July 14, 2010 meeting were accepted on a motion by T. Romaine seconded by B. Utz. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Minutes of July 29, 2010 meeting were accepted on a motion by B. Utz seconded by D. Thistleton. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

## Reports

### **Sanitarian:**

August activity report received. Copies of reports placed on file. Additional comments were as follows:

Stanhope House – inspections went smoothly

Solid waste reports – pictures are being taken of containers for tracking purposes. Waste haulers are responsible for making sure waste stays in county. County is enforcing businesses to recycle.

Complaint received about smoke from downstairs condo entering the upstairs condo making it impossible for the resident to remain in home. Spoke to complainant and informed her the Health Department couldn't help her. There are no laws against smoking in one's home. When he spoke to her she informed him she already contacted an attorney. Most condominiums have terminology stating that you can't effect your neighbor's enjoyment of their unit.

County is cracking down on illegal cigar bars.

Neighbor complained about smell of dog feces coming from 4 Coursen Street. Inspected dog run and did not smell any strong odors.

Flu clinic calendar are out. Several Board members received a call informing them of clinics.

### **Animal Control Officer:**

July and August report received. Discussion took place.

### **Secretary:**

Received two complaints: 4 Coursen Street and smoking complaint and forwarded them to Jim Breiten.

Motion by T. Romaine and seconded by B. Utz to accept reports. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

### **Correspondence**

8-26-10	Bill Storms, DPW Superintendent	re: Jimmy's Towing 258 Rt 206 notification water leak in their service line
8-25-10	JC Power & Light	re: termination acct Frank Tate, 6 Hickory Dr.
8-25-10	Ellen Horak, Clerk	re: 2011 Municipal Calendar
8-6-10	Dana Mooney, CFO	re: Animal Trust Fund
8-6-10	Monique McNeilly	re: Copy of Request to use Animal Trust Fund and Amendment to Chapter 79
7-14-10	Alyce Poalillo	re: proposed "Wildlife" Feeding Ban Ordinance

Motion by D. Thistleton and seconded by J. Benson to accept correspondence. Motion carried by unanimous vote of those present.

### **Old Business**

Neutered Sponsorship Program -- Discussion of what was going to be discussed at Council meeting. Other towns have sections on cats in their code book dealing with damages done to private property. Discussed key points of program. How the program is going to be run.

The program is for any cat in town.

Application process would include identifying applicant as a resident of Stanhope.

Maximum of 4 refunds per household.

Advertise through local means such as mailing. ACO can notify residents when he is called out on complaints.

Program will run for one year.

Program can be amended at any time.

Cats need to be licensed in town to ensure that the cats are from our town. Discussion took place.

Should licensing be required to participate in the program.

Roll call taken: B. Utz: yes, J. Benson: yes, D. Thistleton: yes, J. Romaine: no, M. Mahon: yes, M. McNeilly: yes

Cats have to be licensed in town to receive reimbursement from Animal Trust Fund.

D. Thistleton left meeting.

Application is good for two months. If animal hasn't been treated by that time a new application must be applied for.

### **New Business**

Calendar –Check with Dr. Carlos about dates for the rabies clinic- April 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

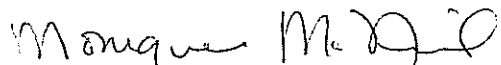
M. Mahon requested we look into including animal license application in calendar.

B. Utz suggested including the town's regulation about garbage cans.

Reviewed dates for Board meetings and seeing no conflicts with holidays the Board will continue to meet the second Wednesday of the month in 2011.

Since there was no further business to transact, the members voted to adjourn 9:20 p.m. Motion by M. Mahon seconded by J. Benson and carried by unanimous vote of those present.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Monique McNeilly".

Monique McNeilly, Board of Health Secretary.

