

**CLOSTER BOARD OF HEALTH  
CLOSTER, NEW JERSEY**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 15, 2012**

Mr. Donald Winters, President called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and invited all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROVISIONS OF OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT**

THIS MEETING IS CALLED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey. Was included in the Notice of Meetings which was sent to the Record and published, posted on the Municipal Clerk's bulletin board and has remained continuously posted as required notice under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Donald Winters, President  
Mr. Anthony Neusch, Vice President  
Dr. Andrew Baron  
Ms. Phyllis Buonomo  
Mrs. Judith Griffin I(arrived after approval of minutes)  
Mrs. Mary Neusch, R.N.  
Dr. Michael Rothschild  
Mrs. Barbara Guile (Alt. #1)  
Ms. Michelle Netusil, REHS  
Mrs. Elvira Testa Caputo, Secretary/Licensing Official/Registrar

**NOT AT THE MEETING**

Dr. Beth Ravit (had another meeting)  
Mr. Arthur Dolson, Council Liaison

Mr. Winters reported that Mrs. Guile would be sitting in for Mrs. Griffin.

**3 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2012 MEETING**

Mr. Winters asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting. Mr. Neusch pointed out that Mr. Breland lived at 223 Strawtown Road and not as shown. A motion was made by Mr. Neusch, seconded by Mrs. Guile to approve the minutes as amended. All in favor, so moved, motion carried.

Mrs. Griffin arrived at the meeting and took her seat.

**4. OPEN/CLOSE MEETING TO PUBLIC**

Mr. Winters reported that he was going off the agenda and opened the meeting to the public in the event someone wanted to speak. No one was present, he closed the meeting to the public.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Winters reported that a list of the correspondence was put into everyone's folder. Not included, was a letter from Ms. Rubel, 375 High Street, which he read, requesting that we amend our ordinance to permit her to have two chickens on her property. This will be discussed under Old Business. .

**6. REPORTS**

**A. Health Officer**

The Health Officer's report was reviewed and found to be in order. Detailed report on file in the Health Department office. Mr. Yanovich reported that on on-site evaluation of the standards of performance would be conducted in June by the office of Local Public Health. This is an evaluation of the local board of health as well as the health agency, in order to assess the degree of adherence to N.J.A.C. and to determine the extent to which those requirements are being supported. He also reported that the last influenza activity level reported by the State indicates that influenza activity in the State has risen to "high" level

**B Registered Environmental Health Specialist**

Ms Netusil's report was reviewed and found to be in order. Detailed report on file in Board of Health Office. Ms. Netusil gave the definition of the "Satisfactory" and "Conditional" ratings.

**C. Secretary/Registrar/Licensing Official**

Mrs. Caputo's reports were reviewed and found to be in order. Detailed reports on file in the Board of Health Office. She reported that dog licenses were being sent out and by next week warning letter would be sent to residents who have not renewed their dog's license. Monies that were received for food and other licenses have been sent out. She will review her list to determine who has renewed their license and a letter of abatement will be sent out.

**D. Council Liaison**

No report.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Finance & Personnel**

No report.

**B. Community Health & Nursing Services**

No report.

**C. Public Relations**

Dr. Rothschild reported that he had put our minutes of our February meeting and a list of Board of Health Members with their address and telephone

numbers on the web-site. He had also received requests for dog license applications which were sent to Mrs. Caputo for handling.

**D. Legal & Ordinance Review**

No report.

**E. Animal Licensing**

Reported above

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Bees**

Mr. Neusch reported that on March 7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Baron, Mr. Winters and himself visited Mr. Brelund at home in Rockland County. They found him to be very knowledgeable, cooperative and dedicated to his craft of raising honey bees. He made the statement that without a bee keeper, there are no bees. He also stated that there are not enough fields of clover anymore to support them, too many fields have been paved over and the use of fertilizers and pesticides are harmful. Therefore, they are dying off from a thousand tiny cuts.

Mr. Brelund has sixteen (16) hives on his property. At least half of them have extension cords running to them to provide heat for the bees. The sculptured hive is a misnomer, it is not a hive, rather it protects the hive which is inside. The pentagon shaped hives are placed two or three feet high above the ground, are lighted and attached to a shingle. He lifted one up to show us the hive inside which needs to be cleaned periodically.

Mr. Brelund advised that he provided a sugar cake to some of the hives so that the bees could eat it and thus provide honey to sustain themselves. He also said that even when you do all this work, it does not guarantee that the bees will survive.

The Members thanked Mr. Neusch for his report. Discussion followed. It was decided that it is important that any future hives in Closter conform to our ordinance and be enclosed in the prescribed fencing to protect the public and the bees as the hives can be knocked over.

**B. Chickens**

Mr. Winters referred to Mrs. Rubel's letter which was reviewed earlier in the meeting. Lengthy discussion followed during which time past problems with chickens were brought to the Members attention. The Members expressed their views on amending the ordinance to grant Mrs. Rubel's request. Everyone was in agreement that the ordinance covering chickens should not be changed due to past experience. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Mrs. Rubel advising of the Board's decision.

**9. NEW BUSINESS AND ANY OTHER MATTER THAT MAY COME BEFORE THIS BOARD**

There was no new business.

**10. ADJOURN**

There being no business to come before this Board, it was duly moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Elvira Testa Caputo  
Secretary