

City of Somerville
Board of Health Meeting
September 21, 2006

Present: Brian Green, M.D., Chairman
Maria Luisa Parra, Board Member
Noreen Burke, Health Director
Kathy Henkle, Administrative Assistant
George Landers, Inspectional Services Director
Absent: Babette Mello, Board Member

Dr Green called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
Ms. Parra seconded it.

Accept Minutes:

Dr. Green made a motion to approve the July 20, 2006 minutes. Ms. Parra seconded it.

Introduction: Ms Burke introduced Mr. Landers to the BOH members.

Overview of Inspectional Services Division:

George Landers gave an overview of what his division does in relation to the Health Dept. Two years ago the health inspectors along with Donna Pickett the administrative assistant were reorganized to the Inspectional Services Division. Mr. Landers is in contact with them on a regular basis and meets with the Health Director, Ms. Burke once a month. The city also implemented the NIT (Neighborhood Impact Team), which consists of the following: the fire chief, a police officer, the environmental officer, council on aging director, a health inspector, and the city solicitor. The goal is to go out once a week to address multiple code violations at properties all at once in a more systematic way. The team does not issue any citations. They inform the offenders that they need to fix their code violations. Two new code enforcement officers were hired to issue citations. Most of the tickets that are issued are abated and/or are thrown out of court because the courts do not have time for \$25-\$50 tickets. The courts are already overloaded with cases that are more important. What the city wants to do is have their own municipal hearing officer to handle the appeals. If this happens, the Treasury Dept would start to send out demand letters to the violators for payment. If they do not pay, an automatic lien would be placed on their property.

MOU Agreement between the Health and ISD Division:

The MOU was passed out to the board members and George Landers for signatures. In addition, Mr. Landers stated that at this time he was not going to sign the agreement because there would be a union issue, which is if Donna Pickett is moved the 4300 calls will go with her, and Mr. Landers says if he signed, a grievance will be filed. The signing of the agreement was tabled until the next meeting.

Mutual Aid Agreement:

The mutual aid agreement was passed out to the board members for signature.

Deputizing Mikhail Ilin as Tobacco Enforcement Officer:

Ms. Burke informed the board members that a new tobacco enforcement officer was hired and that he would need to be deputized. Dr. Green made a motion to appoint Mikhail Ilin as an agent of the Board of Health for enforcing tobacco regulations. This appointment is to last for as long as Mr. Ilin remains employed as the Tobacco Enforcement Officer by the City of Somerville. Ms. Parra seconded it. A vote was taken by the board and it was unanimous 2-0.

Director's Report:

Ms. Burke gave a quick review of the MRC (Medical Reserve Corps)

Ms. Burke would like to show the board a short video explaining the MRC at a future board meeting.

Ms. Burke also invited any board members to the Planning for Disaster: Emergency Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations, which is being held October 19, 2006 from 8:30am to 1:00pm at the Somerville Holiday Inn.

Bedbug Conference was held September 16, 2006 at Bunker Hill Community College and Channel 4 was there for coverage.

All open positions have been filled: Tammy Rocha is our new Scap Director; Mikhail Ilin is our new PT Tobacco Control Officer and Nicole Rioles is our new Shape Up Somerville Coordinator.

All the school nurses are back and everything is looking good. Ms. Burke also mentioned that Christine Henebury the school nurse coordinator is doing a wonderful job in a challenging position.

Next Meeting Reminder & Schedule for the Year:

Ms Parra mentioned that she will be teaching Thursday January through May. Discussion followed on when and what times the board could meet for future meetings.

A motion was made by Dr Green to adjourn the meeting @ 6:45pm.

Ms. Parra seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathy Henkle
Administrative Assistant
Health Department