



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES August 5, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended In Person):

T. Hills, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
T. Nytch, DVM
W. Standinger III, Legislator (Arrived at 1:04 p.m.)

ABSENT:

R. Kapur-Pado, DO
T. Leary, FNP

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary
D. Scherrer, Environmental Health Director
P. DeWind Esq., County Attorney (Arrived at 1:11 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER: at 12:57 p.m. by Dr. Hills.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tioga Casting Property- Ms. Vroman updated the Board on recent events with the property. Received back additional soil samples at the end of July. All samples came back with high levels of cadmium and lead. Lead levels were much higher than what is within a normal limit for what is naturally occurring. Mr. Scherrer noted that levels are acceptable for industrial/commercial zoning but not residential living. Ms. Vroman stated that a letter was received from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) responding to the follow up letter that was sent inquiring of next steps (after site visit). In the letter, DEC suggests that local and state police be contacted and that local zoning laws should be enforced as the site is zoned for industrial/commercial use only. Ms. Vroman also stated that a meeting occurred at the end of July, made up of County/municipality/community representatives, to discuss a plan for the individuals living at the site. Would like to approach as voluntary initially. Some discussion of changing property ownership as well as a plan to dissuade individuals from coming back to the site.
 - Meeting attendees discussed next measures; what can be done by the Board of Health at this time. All agreed that the individuals living onsite need to be made aware of health risks and move offsite. Discussed process for issuing a Public Health order as well as a notice of violation of public health regulations to the property owner, and internal timeline/timeframe for when measures need to be in place.
 - Ms. Vroman stated that she feels an order should not be issued until conversations are had with the individuals living on the property. Board members agreed that invested community members should notify the individuals of the site of having to vacate by September 1, 2024. If any do not voluntarily leave, then the Board will issue a public health order by the next Board of Health meeting on September 19, 2024. Meanwhile, a notice should be sent to the property owner of the public health violations that are occurring on the property at this time. Ms. Vroman stated that she will send an email to those involved in the previous meeting and will also attend the next Legislative Worksession. Will also draft a public health order and send to the Board for review to have ready for next meeting.



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- Sanitary Code Revision- a finalized copy of the amended Tioga County Sanitary Code was sent to the Board electronically prior to the meeting to review. Ms. Vroman asked members if there were any further comments/edits prior to final approval. Board members had no further edits. Motion to approve the sanitary code changes made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Dr. Nytech, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
 - Ms. Vroman noted that the amended code will be presented to the Legislature at the September meeting for their approval, then will be sent to the Center of Environmental Health for their review/filing.

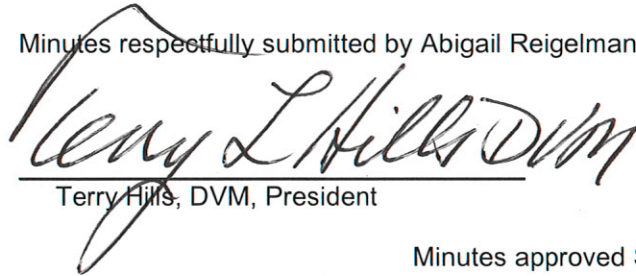
NEW BUSINESS: None

INFORMATIONAL:

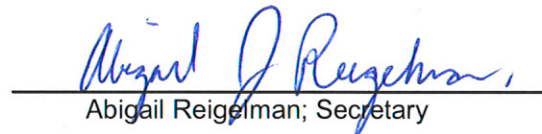
- Ms. Vroman stated that along with the sanitary code revisions, the department is also looking at Environmental Health fees. Currently have internal staff members reviewing. Hope to bring changes to the Board at the next Board of Health meeting.
- Ms. Vroman added that she will be out of town this coming week but will still be checking email.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.



Terry Hills, DVM, President



Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved September 19, 2024