

**TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN
BOARD OF HEALTH**

MINUTES

9:00 am

April 12, 2023

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

1. PROCEDURAL

- a. Call to Order –
- b. Flag Salute
- c. Open Public Meetings Act Statement.
STATEMENT: Pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting was properly provided by sending a copy of the Notice of Meeting to the Asbury Park Press and the Atlantic City Press. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the Administration Office.

Roll Call -	Joan Tredy	Absent
	Nick Bonamassa	X
	Dana Covitz	Absent
	Mary Neafie	X
	Aaron Shapiro	X
	John Panebianco Alt. #1	X
	Valerie Tate Alt. #2	X

2. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- a. **Approve Reorganization Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023**

Motion to approve was moved by Nick Bonamassa, seconded by Valerie Tate.
All in Favor: Aye. None opposed.

Approve Regular Business Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023

Motion to approve was moved by John Panebianco, seconded by Nick Bonamassa.
All in Favor: Aye. None opposed.

b. Activity Report Review – January-March 2023

Nick Bonamassa discussed the Township never licenses 100% of the dogs and cats in town and suggested the Township give an incentive to dog and cat owners that if they license before January 31st, there is no charge. Maybe the reason why they do not license is because they cannot afford it.

Aaron Shapiro discussed if residents cannot afford \$12.00 then they cannot afford to own a dog.

Deputy Mayor Dodd discussed the incentive is a free rabies vaccination from the Township.

John Panebianco suggested the Township give dog and cat owners a coupon for the local veterinary.

Deputy Mayor Dodd discussed the Township would have to pay probably \$40 per coupon.

Valerie Tate discussed the Rabies Clinic did not have a line. Appointments were scheduled. There was a lot of flexibility. Walk-ins are welcomed.

Motion for Secretary Giardino to send a letter to the Township Committee requesting free dog and cat licensing for the month of January, annually, was moved by Nick Bonamassa, seconded by John Panebianco. All in Favor: Aye. Motion Carried.

c. Correspondence – 1st Quarter 2023

No comments from the Board regarding correspondence.

3. OLD BUSINESS

• Rabies Clinic – February 11, 2023

Secretary Giardino discussed the Rabies Clinic was a success. Dr. Wurst of Barnegat Animal Clinic administered free rabies vaccinations to 75 dogs and 14 cats. Dog and cat licenses were issued at the clinic location to 34 dogs and 10 cats. Appointments were scheduled for cats between 9:30am-10:00am and dogs 10:00am–11:00am. There were approximately 4 walk-ins.

4. NEW BUSINESS.

• Animal Licensing – 2023

Secretary Giardino discussed currently 563 dogs and 103 cats are licensed. Reminder emails to residents are sent out monthly. A late fee of \$10.00 was applied March 1st.

John Panebianco requested Secretary Giardino call Barnegat and Lacey Townships to see if they are experiencing a drop in animal licensing as well.

Update:

Lacey Township Dog Licenses 2020-2021: **1,383** / 2021-2022: **1,442** / 2022-2023: **1,347**

Lacey Township Cat Licenses – Not Required

Barnegat Township Dog Licenses 2021: **897** / 2022: **912** / 2023: **793** (as of April)

Barnegat Township Cat Licenses 2021: **99** / 2022: **93** / 2023: **91** (as of April)

Ocean Township Dog Licenses 2021: **685** / 2022: **647** / 2023: **619** (as of September)

Ocean Township Cat Licenses 2021: **143** / 2022: **119** / 2023: **107** (as of September)

Valerie Tate discussed the most important thing is the residents get their animals a rabies vaccination, for the safety of the Township.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT.

No comment from the public.

6. BOARD COMMENTS.

Mary Neafie discussed dogs are not allowed to run free by law and inquired why there is no law for cats. Cats are defecating on properties around town.

Secretary Giardino discussed licensing cats is not a State law. Townships require cat licensing on their own. The Township of Ocean offers cat traps. Residents can trap cats on their property and call animal control to pick up the cat.

Deputy Mayor Dodd discussed if the Township enacted a law prohibiting cats to run at large, the Township would have to send someone out to gather all the cats. Most cats are feral.

Valerie Tate discussed feral cats roam. Residents can call the Township's Animal Control at the Popcorn Park Zoo and they will catch, spay/neuter, vaccinate and release. The left ear is marked of feral cats that have been spayed or neutered and vaccinated.

NEXT MEETING IS October 11, 2023.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was moved by Aaron Shapiro, seconded by Valerie Tate.
All in Favor: Aye. Motion carried.

Michele Giardino, Secretary
Township of Ocean Board of Health