

December 4, 1948

SPECIAL MEETING

At a special meeting held December 4, 1948, a Resolution from the Lions' Club of Leonardtown, was presented and read by Mr. R.E. Wigginton, chairman of the Standing Committee on Sanitation, together with a copy of his report to the club Resolution and letters, reports, hereto attached.

A general discussion of the unsanitary conditions existing in the county followed, with the result that the Board requested their attorney, Mr. J.H.T. Briscoe to ~~writeta~~ write a letter to Dr. Geo. R. Waters, State Deputy Health Officer for St. Mary's County, directing him to immediately effect corrections of the more flagrant violations, which are menaces to the health and sanitation of the county.

Referring to Dtr. Waters' request for additional Rules and Regulations relative to sanitation etc., for the County, the consensus of opinion was that there are already on the Statutes sufficient Rules and Regulations for these conditions, what is necessary is their enforcement.

Mr. Briscoe read from the Minutes of June 22, when Dr. Waters and others were present, at which time Dr. Waters was assured of the support of the Board in matters pertaining to the sanitation of the county. Dr. Waters requested that ordinances necessary to cope with the situation be prepared by the Board, in order to enable the Health Dept., to properly function. The Bd. suggested that in view of the present existing laws they were sufficient for the work necessary. They suggested that any additional ordinances Dr. Waters felt were necessary should be prepared by him, and presented to their attorney Mr. Briscoe who would examine them and such as were deemed necessary would be drafted in proper form for the health officers to function and thus clean up any situation existing. It was the latter part of November before Dr. Waters presented anything to Mr. Briscoe, and then it gave him copy of an ordinance of Pr. Geo. Co., and another from Cumberland relating to eating and drinking places, only. These ordinances are, says Mr. Briscoe, another thought, as the matter in question at present is sanitation, plumbing etc.

Capt. M.R. Bailey reiterated that the Board has already assured the Health Department of their willingness to cooperate with them at all times. Mr. Frank Bailey stated he felt that the matter could have been handled in a different matter without so much unfavorable publicity to the County.

Mr. Wigginton advised the Lions' Club felt the Board could not have taken any other stand. A letter was given to Mr. Wigginton by Dr. Waters with the suggestion that he not make same public. At the same time the letter was published in the So. Md. Times of Nov. 25, 1948, copy of which is filed here. Dr. Waters also volunteered to give Mr. Wigginton a mimeographer copy of the Ordinances he desired, but which he failed to do.

Mr. King then asked if the letter to the Chrmn of the Std. Com. on San. was considered as a request for the recommendation of Ordinances covering Food- Water-etc., and \$6,000.00 for the transportation and salary of 2 additional Sanitation Officers. Mr. Wigginton replied he felt that the report his committee made covered all those items.

While the Ordinances which Dr. Waters gave Mr. Briscoe covered only food and drink, Dr. Waters never mentioned that he required Ordinances for special items, but general. Mr. Briscoe says he does not propose to sit down and draw up a lot of ordinances needed by the Health Dept. If the Health Dept. advises what the need specifically he feels confident the Bd. will have them prepared and approved. However, all feel that the Ordinances existing on the Statutes seem ample for all conditions. Mr. Briscoe then produced transcripts of records from the Tr. Mag. Court Feb 18, 1944 wherein Chas. J. Mattingly, the then Sanitation officer for St. Mary's made a complaint against one W. E. Fletcher, tavern keeper of Great Mills, charging him with selling food and beverages in an unclean place, after being duly notified in writing that he was not to do so until his premises had been cleaned and passed inspection. Mr. Fletcher posted bond of \$300.00 each of 2 counts, which he forfeited by failing to appear. He did however, clean up his place. Another case was that of Bat Russell, charged with removing oysters from a polluted area. This he denied. Dr. E. C. Peck, the late Health Officer for St. Mary's County brought into court moving picture film and screen. When the picture was flashed on the screen in his surprise, the defendant cried out "why that's me." The film showed the defendant in the very act which he denied. Mr. Briscoe further remarked that the State Health Dept., had evidently changed its' policy, since Dr. Peck did not hesitate to bring violators of the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Health and Sanitation of the county before the court. Dr. Waters had previously stated that the State Dept. of Health preferred not to make charges as they might interfere with his clinics, and prefers the County officials to do this.

The Board insists the point is to enforce the rules and regulations now on the statutes which cover food, drink, plumbing etc. Mr. Briscoe says that after duly notifying the offenders in writing if conditions are rectified, a warrant charging them with the violation should be served. He feels if the present Health officers followed the Rules and Regulations and secured such warrants, they would soon clear up the situation.

The Board feels it is entirely unnecessary to appropriate \$6,000 for the transportation and salary of two additional sanitation officers, since the present one apparently does not do his work.

Mr. Smith called attention to the fact that cases of Scarlet Fever existed in a family where four children were of school age. The attending physician reported the matter to Dr. Waters himself, requesting that the family be quarantined.

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This Dr. Waters refused to do. The result is that there are now 6 cases of scarlet fever in the county. The responsibility of quaranting rests entirely with the Health Dept.

Mr. Jackson stated that the Health Dept. is keeping close touch with the dairies in Leonardtown, and other places. However, the Amish sell milk, without having their cattle tested, their barns inspected or a permit to do so.

Mr. Wigginton stressed the fact that the Lions' report is not against any individual or section in particular, but rather the county in general.

Mr. Briscoe then advised that the Rules and Regulations regarding inspection of Building and Plumbing are under the Health Dept. statutes.

As a result of the meeting the Board has gone into the matter of the urgent needs of the county, requesting Mr. Briscoe to prepare a letter addressed to Dr. Waters directing him to enforce all laws now on the statutes relating to the health and sanitation of the county. After he has made a complete survey of such rules etc., Mr. Briscoe will draft the letter and copy will be sent to Dr. Riley. Letter will be ready Dec. 7.

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After the above matters were settled Mr. B.I. Smith appeared relative to a heat control for the thermostat. He suggested that such control could be installed, with time clock for raising and lowering temp in Court House- rather than the constant changing of the thermostat. He also advised that due to the increased number of lights now used in the various offices, the present wiring system is inadequate and dangerous. He proposed to furnish and install

1 automatic thermostat heat control with time clock
35 floor plugs in the several rooms, where desired
Rewire Ct. House with new system

all of the above not to exceed \$500.00
He was instructed to commence the work at once. Proposal was accepted by Capt. M.R. Bailey.

Letter from R.V. Jones, relative to road leading to home of Eugene Sheridan on St. Jerome's Creek. Requests road be accepted and incorporated in County System for maintenance. Deed R of W in clerks office. Board instructed clerk to write Mr. Jones that all road building had been discontinued until spring of 1949 but would place gravel on road to make same usable

Clerk instructed to write Mr. W.C. Thompson, jr., Res. Eng. to discontinue building new road and employ his time with repairs until spring of 1949. Board adjourned at 3:40 pm

