

**MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH  
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

**DAVID SCALES**, called the meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Health to order. Notice of the meeting was given pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Written notice was sent to two newspapers, the Gloucester County Times and the Sentinel. A copy of the written notice was given to the Township Clerk and posted on the bulletin board.

**Salute to the flag.**

**ROLL CALL**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Rene Pandola	X		
David Scales	X		
Dan Kozak	X		
Diana Salvadori	X		
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski		X	
Marie Sheridan			X
Ben Jones	X		
Debra Valcourt-Sherman	X		
Sherri McIlvaine	X		

**PUBLIC PORTION: DAVID SCALES** opened up the public portion of the meeting and asked that anyone who speaks to please state your name and order of business when you come up to the podium.

**DAVID SCALES:** Asked for a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. **SHERRIE KENNEDY** made a motion to open the meeting to the public. **DIANA SALVADORI** 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All members agreed.

**DENISE ADAMS** of town council introduced herself and gave a statement about PETSABERS speaking at the last council meeting in reference to the TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release) program for a property located at 1761 Glassboro Road. She stated that after they were informed that the TNR program was a pilot program through the town and had expired. She stated that after doing some research and speaking with different representatives from different departments and boards within the Township they came to determine there was a lot of misrepresentation about the program. She said they needed some things answered such as how the program is supposed to work, the Counties perspective on how it should work, who is responsible for overseeing the program, what is involved in the program, what the costs were, etc. She stated that she was out at the residence on Glassboro Road and only saw two (2) cats and the owner of that property said she only feeds around twenty (20) cats on her property, Denise stated that the owner's property backs up to the bike path. She stated that Petsavers is looking to come in and trap these cats, spay/neuter them, help the sick ones if they can, rehome cats that can be rehomed, euthanize the cats that are too sick to treat. There was a lengthy discussion about this topic.

**DAVID SCALES:** Informed Denise Adams that the Board of Health never approved the Pilot Program we had the same questions as she had and that the Board was not happy with the way it was written and the guidelines of the program. He stated that the Board does agree that something needs to be done to cut down on the cat population and were ok with the Trap and Neuter aspect of the program. He also stated that the Ordinance Committee despite the concerns that the Board of Health has went ahead and adopted the Pilot Program and had it under Zoning and then tried to have it moved to fall under the Board of Health. He said our Board members attended Ordinance meetings and opposed to the program and gave them all of the reasons why this program was not suitable and the adopted it anyway. There was a lengthy discussion about the pilot program and what the County, Animal Control and Petsavers involvement is when it comes to the program.

**WENDY CAREY** from the Gloucester County Health Department and Animal Shelter spoke to let everyone know the County Health departments views on the TNR program and what their involvement would be she brought Christine Quigley who is the assistant manager of the Animal Shelter with her and that is who we contract to do all the Animal Control work for the Township. WENDY stated that there is no need to hire and Animal Control officer but if we did decide to adopt a TNR program we would have to figure out who is going to manage it. She stated that that would normally be your Zoning Official as they would need to determine if the area is acceptable for the program. She stated that the County would be there to assist in the determination. There was a lengthy discussion about this matter.

**GINA MEGAY:** Board President of Petsavers stated that they have been in Gloucester County since 2008 and their mission is to reduce the euthanasia of animals in the Gloucester County Animal Shelter. She stated that of someone is trying to surrender their animal because they can't handle it they try to get them training, she said if someone can not feed their animal they help get them food. She stated that Gloucester County has had the highest euthanasia rate in all 21 counties in the state of New Jersey for years. She said that the rate is primarily driven by cats and is driven by unsocialized cats. She stated that most of the unsocialized cats that come to the shelter are held for the minimum of 7 days but most of the time longer than that prior to being euthanized. She provided stats to the board and how much it costs to hold the cats and have them euthanized. She explained how the TNT program would lessen the burden on the County Animal Shelter. She also went into an in-depth explanation of how the TNR program works and the role Petsavers plays in the program. There was a lengthy discussion about this topic.

**KELLY EVANS:** Spoke about the benefit of the TNR program and how many cats she has boarded and that there needs to be something done to reduce the numbers of cats. She went through all of the shelters and rescues she helps and the number of animals she has fostered. She stated the Township needs to adopt something to help reduce the numbers and lower the cost to hold, feed and euthanize the over population of cats. There was a lengthy discussion about this matter.

**BRUCE KELMER:** of 1757 Glassboro Road stated that he is not here to argue about the TNR program with the Township he was there to argue with the neighbor at 1761 Glassboro Road. He stated that he has a petition dated January 31, 2023 to stop granting a waiver for the Cat Colony (TNR program) at 1761/1767 Glassboro Road. He stated that to date he has trapped 29 cats from the neighbor's property which is almost ten (10) times the allowed amount by ordinance of three (3). He stated that the cats were turned over to Gloucester County Animal control who stated that none of the cats are licensed, vaccinated and most are very ill. He stated that in October of 2022 he notified the County about the issue and needed it addressed. He stated that he told them they were damaging his property, furniture and there were kittens under the hood of his wife's car. He stated that Gloucester County Animal Control officer Alex Frederico stated that she had seen many cats on the neighbor's property and asked him to please patient and it takes time to address this situation. He stated he would told they could continue to live trap any cats that were on his property. Beginning in November he stated that Elizabeth Camashion asked him if he was the one who called Animal Control and he expressed his concerns about the issues happening to his property and all of the damage. He said a few days later Mrs. Camashion informed him that she was dealing with an organization that would be coming to trap and remove the cats at that they will need time to address this issue. He stated that on December 29<sup>th</sup> of 2022 a flyer was put in his mailbox informing him that they were attempting to have all the cats trapped, neutered/spayed and returned to the property in January of 2023. He stated that this is against the Township Ordinance as the TNR program has expired. He said the only reason this did not happen was because he placed a call to Alex Frederico from Gloucester County Animal Control. He went on to explain that Elizabeth Camashion did not apply for a waiver and did not notify all the neighbors surrounding her property as plainly stated in the Township Ordinance. Mr. Kelmer stated that the neighboring property is only 200ft wide and that it backs up to the bike path were a lot of people walk their animals and residents walk, jog and ride bikes. He stated that parts of the neighbor's property does not have a fence that would keep the animals in and keep them from using the neighbors yards like a toilet. He stated that the cats have been documented walking through horse manure and then coming on to his property and he doesn't know what kinds of diseases they could be bringing over. Stated the owner has not cared for the animals who are mostly sick and continue to breed prior to them being contacted by Gloucester County Animal Control. He feels she should not be allowed to have a cat colony and only be allowed to have the minimum amount controlled by the Township's ordinance. There was a lengthy discussion about this topic.

**JUNE KELMER:** Stated all of the above issues that her husband addressed and expressed how she feels unsafe letting her grand kids play in the yard, how her new lawn furniture was ruined by multiple cats giving birth on the cushions and how she did not retire to trap cats. She asked if this was going to make the value of her property go down? She said she is all about saving the cats but does not feel they should be allowed to be near her property.

**DAVID SCALES:** Stated we were not aware of the issues and we are aware now and we are doing what we can to address it. **JUNE KELMER** stated she found a kitten on the trail to the bike path that was blind and followed their voices. She said she is not a car person but had to help the kitten so she put it in a basket and took it to animal control. She stated that the Animal Control Officer stated there was a lot of cats when she went to see what was going on. There was a lengthy discussion about this issue. The public got argumentative and we needed to have officer's standby in the courtroom.

**ELIZABETH CAMASHION:** Stated she has been living at 1761 Glassboro Road since 1999 and the cats did not start to come onto her property until she put the bike path in. She said people dump animals there all the time she took in a goat, her neighbor took in chickens. She stated someone left a ferret in a cage and last summer she caught a woman back there with her car dumping cats. She stated she owns five (5) acres and her property is about 700 to 800 feet off the road and the Kilmer's are about 300 feet off the road. She said she has horses and she has never had any issues with the Kilmer's until this. She stated there is not 100 cats on her property and she has no idea how it got this far out of control. She stated she has records of taking these cats to the Camden County Animal Shelter for treatment and neutered at her expenses. She stated that she lost her job, her mother is in the hospital and she visits her everyday and her husband works 7 days a week. She stated that she does feed them and care for the ones she is able too, and theoretically since she feeds them they can be considered her pets but they are not. She stated she is an animal lover and tried to do all she could for the cats by feeding them, taking them to be spayed/neutered, medical treatments etc. but they are not her cats. She said she had no idea of the Township Ordinance and that these cats were not all Ferrell cats they are loving and show affection and after Alex came she was able to find homes for 11 cats. She spoke to a friend of hers that gave her the information for Petsavers and within two (2) days of her visit from Alex to try to get this situation under control. She said she never wanted this to become a public nuisance. There was a lengthy discussion about this topic.

**GINA MEGAY:** Stated that she reviewed the data from the 1761 Glassboro Road property and 27 cats were taken in, 1 cat had an upper respiratory infection which is not uncommon, 16 were euthanized, 4 were saved and 7 are still on a stray hold. That was an 80% kill rate and the ones that are on the stray hold will most likely be euthanized as well. She stated that when Petsavers trap from these groups of cats not all of them will make it back, friendly ones and kittens they try to rehome because they do not want them outside. Sick ones do not go back either and this greatly reduces the size of the colonies on top of the spay/neuter aspect of the program which greatly reduces the birth of new cats. There was a lengthy discussion in reference to this topic.

**DAVID SCALES:** Made a motion to close the public portion of the hearing. **DAN KOZAK** made a motion to close the hearing to the public, **RENA PANDOLA** 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all members agreed.

**DAVID SCALES:** Started the meeting in reference to the property located at 1761 Glassboro Road, **DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN** stated it would be beneficial to allow the TNR program, **DAVID SCALES** stated there is no ordinance allowing this and we are not discussing the program we are discussing what to do to rectify the issue with the cats and allowing Petsavers to do what needs to be done to start the process rectifying the issue until the ordinance can be re-written which could take months and it needs to be read at 2 hearings before it can be adopted as an ordinance. There was a lengthy discussion in reference to this matter which kept being interrupted by the public the Board had no choice but to move the meeting to the Caucus room so they could properly assess the situation and come to an agreement as to the issue at hand.

**DAVID SCALES:** Stated that we need to come up with a decision about the property at 1761 Glassboro Road. The Board agreed that they needed to place a temporary approval for PetSavers to apply the TNR program to this location after we check with the Townships Solicitor for any issues that could arise from PetSavers going to that property with the neighbor issues. The board also agreed that we need a better count of the actual number of cats that are at that location in case we need to give a variance for that location to allow PetSavers to work at that location prior to the TNR program being written and signed off on. There was a lengthy discussion in reference to the TNR program.

**DAVID SCALES:** Ask for a motion to have the above things looked into so that we can allow PetSavers to start the TNR process on the 1761 Glassboro Road location once we have the information needed to move forward.

**DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN** made a motion, **BEN JONES 2<sup>nd</sup>** the motion all members in attendance agreed.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**DAVID SCALES:** Asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from January of 2023 meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Health.

**DAN KOZAK:** made a motion to approve the minutes from the January of 2023, the motion was seconded by **DIANA SALVADORI**. All members agreed to approving the minutes.

**DAVID SCALES:** The total cash settlement for **January of 2023** was **\$4,610.00**.

#### **REPORTS:**

**SHERRIE MCILVAINE:** Nothing to report.

**MARIE SHERIDAN:** Not present.

**DAN KOZAK:** Nothing to report.

**BEN JONES:** Nothing to report.

**RENE PANDOLA:** Nothing to report.

**DIANA SALVADORI:** Nothing to report.

**RON GARBOWSKI:** Not present.

**DEBRA VALCOURT-SHERMAN:** Nothing to report.

**DAVID SCALES:** Nothing to report.

**DAVID SCALES:** With no further business to discuss, **DAVID SCALES** asked for a motion to adjourn and **BEN JONES** made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Board of Health meeting of February 8, 2023 the motion was seconded by **RENE PANDOLA**. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Rudolph  
Clerk Transcriber

These minutes are an extract from the meeting that was held on the above date and are not a verbatim account or to be construed as an official transcript of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_