



Borough of Watchung Board of Health

MINUTES

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

January 22, 2025 – 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 6:35pm

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Under the provisions of N.J.S.A 10:4-6 et seq., notice of time and place of this meeting has been posted and sent to the official newspapers.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Kimberly Brown – Alternate #1, Board of Health Secretary-Dámaris Quiñones-Gray administered the oath.

Charlene Vergilio – Regular Member, was absent and will receive oath at a later date.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bruce Ruck, Diane Logan, Marybeth Lijo and Kimberly Brown

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

Also Present: Council Liaison Sonia Abi-Habib, and Kevin Sumner, Health Officer of Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission.

Secretary Dámaris Quiñones-Gray read correspondence from Deepika Garg who decided to resign from the Board of Health.

A “**MOTION**” was made by Bruce Ruck and seconded by Diane Logan. “**TO MAKE KIMBERLY BROWN A REGULAR MEMBER, AND REQUEST THAT THE MAYOR APPOINT (2) TWO ALTERNATES TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.**” All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Diane Logan nominated Bruce Ruck for President, seconded by Kimberly Brown.

All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Kimberly Brown nominated Diane Logan for Vice-President, seconded by Bruce Ruck.

All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

CONSENT AGENDA – MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024 MEETING.

Bruce Ruck moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

BOH 2025-R-1. APPROVAL OF 2024 MEETING DATES

Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to adopt 2025 meeting dates. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

March 19th, May 21st, September 17th, November 19th and January 21, 2026 (Re-Organization)

BOH 2025-R-2. AGREEMENT WITH MRHC

Bruce Ruck moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to adopt the 2025 agreement with Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

BOH 2025-R-3. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MRHC

Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to appoint Bruce Ruck, Robert Riedinger and Marybeth Lijo as the Alternate to the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Kevin Sumner announced that the next Commission meeting will be held in February in Greenbrook and that the budget was adopted at the last meeting.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS

November and December 2024

Discussions were held on various incidents listed on the reports, in particular the following:

- OPRA request dated December 11, 2024, regarding Highway 22 and 545 Johnston Drive Central West Regional Epidemiology
- Sewer lines and septic issues on Johnston Drive
- Bat incidents
- The Commission's social media activity
- Lack of communication from American Water regarding alerts for boiling water, watermain breaks and maintenance/repair.
- Format of the staff reports

ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS

November, December and 2024 Annual Reports

No comments on the reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayors Wellness Campaign – discussion was held on the Rescue Squad's CPR Training events and the Mayor's interest in having a joint venture with Warren who just began a member of MWC.

NEW BUSINESS

Goals/Initiatives for 2025 –

- Enforcement of Bill signed by Governor Phil Murphy regarding the prohibited sale of any product containing THC by any shop/store that is not a licensed dispensary.
- MWC Committee to plan Line Dancing events

PUBLIC PORTION

No one appeared.

ADJOURMENT

Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:34 pm. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Charlene Vergilio, Francesca Escaleira

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled to be held March 19, 2025 at 6:30pm, in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted,

Dámaris Quñones-Gray

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 3/19/25