



Borough of Watchung Board of Health

MINUTES

May 21, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

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.

OATH OF OFFICE – Emma Jubin, Regular Member

Oath was administered by Mayor Ronald Jubin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bruce Ruck-President, Diane Logan-Vice President, Robert Riedinger, Marybeth Lijo, Emma Jubin and Kimberly Brown
Absent: Charlene Vergilio and Francesca Escaleira

Also present: Kevin Sumner, Health Officer from Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting was made by Diane Logan and seconded by Kimberly Brown. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain due to absence from March 19th meeting: Robert Riedinger

Absent: Francesca Escaleira

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Kevin Sumner gave a brief summary of the Commission's approval of financial reports and the impact of federal cuts to the overall operation of the commission, along with updates that were given on infectious diseases, health education sessions and promotions online and social media platforms created and posted by Amilia Dominguez the Commission's Health Educator.

Bruce Ruck stated that he will not be able to attend Middle-Brook's Commission meetings because he will be teaching Monday nights and asked for more Watchung representation. Robert Riedinger volunteered to attend the Commission Meeting in June.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS

March and April – Bruce Ruck questioned 131 Cedar Road – what is being done to resolve this chronic property. Kevin Sumner stated that there are two other properties on Tuttle and Lakeview he further informed that summonses are issued and court orders are given to property owners. Bruce Ruck requested an update at the next meeting.

Kevin Sumner announced a Well Water Testing event in collaboration with Raritan Headwaters, Township of Warren, Mayors Wellness Campaign and the Borough of Watchung. (Flyer attached.)

Testing to be held in Warren Municipal Building, June 9-13, from 9am to 3pm and in Watchung Borough Hall, June 9, 11 & 13 from 10am to 2pm.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS (continued)

Kevin Sumner also distributed the 2024 Commission's Local Health Report to every member present (attached hereto).

Discussion was held regarding a listing of properties with wells to get this well testing information to those who do not have social media, email or social media. Robert Riedinger stated that if American Water can provide a list of Watchung Residents they service and if the Borough can provide the tax list he can then manually cross check to determine the properties with wells.

Robert Riedinger asked if Middle-Brook has provided the schools with information regarding Poison Prevention Week. Kevin Sumner informed that Middle-Brook is working with several alliances to get this information to schools.

ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS

March and April – No questions or comments on reports.

Bruce Ruck wanted to know if a dog escapes and the Animal Control Solutions is called, who foots the bill. Kevin Sumner stated that if there is an owner on file the owner has to pay to retrieve the dog and any additional fines incurred. If there is no owner on file the borough will pay for Animal Control Solution's services.

OLD BUSINESS

Child care facilities operating without a license (Bruce Ruck's inquiry from last meeting)
Kevin Sumner stated that there are no unregulated child care facilities in Watchung.

Vector Animal Control – cat bite – Kevin Sumner informed that the victim may have been feeding the cat and by ordinance the cat belongs to the care taker. Cats need to be registered and provide rabies shots records.

Status of enforcement of illegal sales of Cannabis infused products – Bruce Ruck informed that the State Bill has been signed but enforcement is on hold due to various law suits by certain entities that are against the bill.

NEW BUSINESS

Bruce Ruck mentioned that because Bonnie Burn Road is congested during rush hours. He questioned how EMS can respond if there is a case where someone has a heart attach or a child is choking. Bruce Ruck wants to know if traffic was taken under consideration in the planning process for the new housing complex. Bruce Ruck asked Damaris Gray to inquire with the Zoning Board and provide information at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm was made by Kimberly Brown and seconded by Diane Logan. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Charlene Vergilio and Francesca Escaleira

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on September 17, 2025, at 6:30pm in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Dámaris Quiñones-Gray

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 9/17/2025