



## Borough of Watchung Board of Health

### MINUTES

January 21, 2026 – 6:30 PM

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 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.

#### **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

#### **OATHS OF OFFICE**

Mayor Ronald G. Jubin administered the oaths to:  
Kimberly Brown, Regular Member – Term ending 12/31/2028  
Diane Logan, Regular Member – Term ending 12/31/2028  
Seth Weingarten, Alternate #1 – Term ending 12/31/2026

The following members were absent and will receive oath at a later date:  
Francesca Escaleira, Regular Member – Term ending 12/31/2028  
Robert Riedinger, Regular Member – Term ending 12/31/2028

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Bruce Ruck-President, Diane Logan-Vice President, Charlene Vergilio, Kimberly Brown, Emma Jubin, Seth Weingarten-Alt. #1 and Mitchell Jablons Alt. #2  
Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert Riedinger  
Also present: Mayor Ronald G. Jubin, Councilwoman Sonia Abi-Habib and Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

#### **INTRODUCTIONS TO NEW MEMBER**

Members introduced themselves to new member Seth Weingarten.

#### **NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT**

Diane Logan nominated Bruce Ruck for President, seconded by Charlene Vergilio.  
All were in favor with the following exceptions:  
Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert Riedinger

#### **NOMINATION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT**

Bruce Ruck nominated Diane Logan for Vice-President, seconded by Kimberly Brown.  
All were in favor with the following exceptions:  
Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert Riedinger

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2025 meeting was made by Bruce Ruck and seconded by Mitchell Jablons. All were in favor with the following exceptions:  
Abstain due to absence from November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting: Charlene Vergilio and Kimberly Brown

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert Riedinger

### **BOH 2026-R-1. APPROVAL OF 2026 MEETING DATES**

**(BOH 2025-5 Deferred from November 19, 2025 meeting)**

A motion was made by Mitchell Jablons and seconded by Bruce Ruck to adopt Resolution BOH 2026-R-1, approving 2026 meeting dates: March 18<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>st</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup> and January 20, 2027 (Re-Organization Meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M.)

All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert Riedinger

### **BOH 2026-R-2. AGREEMENT WITH MRHC**

A motion was made by Bruce Ruck and seconded by Mitchell Jablons to adopt Resolution BOH 2026-R-2, for the Board of Health to enter into agreement with Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$139,069.00.

All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert Riedinger

### **BOH 2026-R-3. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MRHC**

Kevin Sumner gave a brief explanation of the Commission's function in serving as the Borough's Health Department and services provided by the Commission.

A motion was made by Diane Logan and seconded by Bruce Ruck to adopt Resolution BOH 2026-R-3, appointing Emma Jubin, Robert Riedinger and Alternate – Seth Weingarten to represent the Borough of Watchung at the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission meetings throughout 2026.

All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, and Robert Riedinger

### **MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT**

Kevin Sumner gave a summary of the Commission's finances and grants that will be expiring which currently support various employees as well as the future goals for the Commission to sustain these positions without grant funding.

### **MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS**

November and December 2025 – Bruce Ruck questioned a mobile truck that was illegally parked at a shopping mall. A discussion followed pertaining to cannabis beverages being sold through vending machines and potential restrictions on cannabis-containing products. Kevin Sumner will check with the State to determine whether the Borough can restrict the sale of psychoactive substances. Diana Logan brought up the dangers of Kratom as well.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS**

November, December and 2025 Annual Reports

No comments were made.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Syringe Disposal announcements on website, social media and email blasts** - Kevin Sumner informed that information for syringe disposal is on the Commission's website. Councilwoman will make sure this topic gets announced and circulated. Mitchell Jablons informed that he sent information on e-bikes to be added to the Commission's website and inquired as to the status. Kevin Sumner informed of the State Bill requiring e-bike users to have a license to operate e-bikes. Bruce Ruck suggested that e-bikes be restricted from elementary and middle schools.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **BOH Goals/Initiatives for 2026** - Bruce Ruck proposed to add another half hour to the next meeting to brain storm initiatives and ideas. Kevin Sumner stated that assessments are needed to determine what programs can take place.
- **MWC Goals/Initiatives for 2026** - Mayor Jubin mentioned that a grant was received for the renovation of Camp Endeavor and welcomed ideas on activities. Kimberly Brown suggested dance classes. Dámaris Gray invited anyone who is interested to come up with creative ideas to move MCW forward. Mayor Jubin informed of the plans for Community Connection Center which can be utilize to host various programs. Councilwoman Abi-Habib invited the board members to get involved in the Farmers Market to share important wellness information. Diane Logan volunteered her students to educate residents on public health at the Farmers Market.
- **Verizon Outage: Effects on Emergency Medical Assistance and Contingency Planning.** Bruce Ruck informed that 911 was still operational during the outage. He questioned what would happen if 911 was not active during an outage. He shared that in the past, colored porch lights were used to inform first responders of any emergency at that location.
- Bruce Ruck requested the Commission keep a detailed report for the next three to five years, tracking communicable, preventative, vaccine preventable disease and the increase or decrease of those infectious diseases.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm was made by Bruce Ruck and seconded by Mitchell Jablons. All were in favor with the following exceptions:  
Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Robert Riedinger and Kimberly Brown

The next meeting is scheduled to be held March 18, 2026 at 6:30pm, in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dámaris Quiñones-Gray*

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: