



## **Borough of Watchung Board of Health**

### **MINUTES**

**November 20, 2024 – 6:30 PM**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 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.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Vice-President, Charlene Vergilio, and Deepika Garg

Also present: Council Liaison Sonia Abi-Habib and Robyn Key – Environmental Specialist of Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission. Invited guest – Denise Wilson of the Watchung Rescue Squad was in attendance at the scheduled time of 6:30pm and gave a summary of the Rescue Squad's implementation of CPR Classes/Certification in 2025.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Diane Logan moved and Marybeth Lijo seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of September 18, 2024. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain due to absence from September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting: Bruce Ruck, President, Francesca Escaleira

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Vice-President, Charlene Virgilio, and Deepika Garg

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

Francesca Escaleira inquired as to who sets the goals annually for the commission. Robyn Key responded that all the staff meets to set goals. Robyn Key informed the board members of the commission's budget meeting scheduled to be held Monday, November 25, 2024.

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

*October & September* – Bruce Ruck commented on the new report format.

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

*October & September* – *No questions or comments from board members.*

#### **PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025**

BOH Secretary Dámaris Quiñones-Gray, informed that pursuant to Ord. No. 2018-04 § 3] a. Schedule of Meetings, the Chairman of the Board of Health of the Borough of Watchung shall annually, within the first two weeks of January, schedule a minimum of four quarterly meetings which will be posted on the Borough Website. Such meetings may be cancelled by the Chairman, within one week thereof. Notice of any cancellation must be posted on the Borough's Website. The meetings are to be held: March 19<sup>th</sup>; May 21<sup>st</sup>; September 17<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Credible Minds Letter to Mayor & Council – Dámaris Quiñones-Gray sent email to the Mayor and Council on November 14, 2024 stating that the Board adopted a “Motion” for the BOH secretary to forward the information regarding the credible minds program, that Kevin Sumner provided, to the Mayor and Council making it an adjunct to the overall Mayors Wellness Campaign”.
- MWC –participation at Harvest Festival debriefing – Bruce Ruck commended Diane Logan and for being at the table throughout the whole event.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- MWC – Initiatives for 2025
- CPR Classes for 2025 (Denise Wilson from the Rescue Squad invited) Bruce Ruck summarized Denise Wilson’s overview of the Rescue Squad offering CPR classes to employees and residents.
- Rescue Squad Tree of Lights event, on December 7th – Bruce Ruck shared an invitation from the Rescue Squad to their annual event which this year they’ll be honoring the volunteers that serve on the boards & commissions.
- Rabies Clinic – Robyn Key announced that a rabies clinic will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 10am at the Watchung Fire House’
- State Legislation regarding THC products in stores – Bruce Ruck informed that Governor Murphy signed legislation on September 13, which gave stores a 30-day grace period to sell out or remove any marijuana related products unless said store is a licensed dispensary.
- Re-appointments to the Board of Health – Charlene Vergilio and Kimberly Brown.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Bruce Ruck moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:29pm. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Robert Riedinger, Vice-President, Charlene Vergilio, and Deepika Garg

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on November 20, 2024, at 6:30pm in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dámaris Quiñones-Gray*

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 1/22/2025