



BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

July 17, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

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

Also present: Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

CONSENT AGENDA

Bruce Ruck moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2024, Special Meeting of March 25, 2024 and Special Meeting of April 8, 2024. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain: Francesca Escaleira (absent at March 5, 2024 meeting)

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

BOH R-3. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MRHC

At the previous meeting Robert Riedinger volunteered to be a member and Marybeth Lijo volunteered to be the alternate. Bruce Ruck decided to volunteer for the second position, until someone else accepts this appointment. A motion appointing Bruce Ruck to the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission was made by Diane Logan and seconded by Kimberly Brown.

All were in favor with the following exceptions:

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

BOH R-4. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY REGISTRAR

A motion to appoint Colleen Lange as the Borough's Registrar during the absence of Regina Angelo from July 2024 through February 2025 was made by Bruce Ruck, seconded by Francesca Escaleira. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

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

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Kevin Sumner gave an update on the progress of Amelia Dominguez, the Health Educator and discussed Middle-Brook's newsletter and social media activity. Suggestions were made to reach students to sign up to Middle-Brook and the Borough's websites, Instagram and Facebook pages to have access to information on mental illness, drug abuse, etc. He also stated that the Commission is losing money due to the COVID grants dissolving. This will cause the Commission to have various position vacant. He asked the Board Members to advocate to the Governing Body on behalf of the Commission for these positions. Discussion continued regarding the process to increase the allocation from each Commission Town.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORTS

February, March, April, May & June – Bruce Ruck questioned several dog bite incidents, sewerage disposal, septic system issues specifically on Johnston Drive. He asked if there are any plans to remove the remaining septic tanks from Johnston Drive. A lengthy discussion was held regarding well water and contaminants. Francesca Escaleira stated that Amelia Dominguez has included various activities in her report and suggested that the Health Mobile be present at the Harvest Festival for breast cancer screenings.

ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS

February, March, April, May & June – the Members reviewed the reports and no further discussion was held.

OLD BUSINESS

MWC - CPR/AED Classes in 2024 update (Teen/Babysitters) - Diane Logan is working on getting dates with the Rescue Squad.

Credible Minds - Kevin Sumner informed that the cost is approximately \$3,000.00 yearly per town population. Bruce Ruck suggested for the Board Members to watch the video and asked Kevin Sumner for an evaluation sheet to assist members in determining if they are going to recommend this program to Council.

Potential change in start time of meetings to 6:30pm, A motion was made to change the meeting time by Diane Logan, seconded by Francesca Escaleira. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

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

Resolution for BOH to waive fees for non-profits - Kevin Sumner suggested to leave it like it is for now.

NEW BUSINESS

MWC – Update regarding participation at Community Picnic (Councilwoman Sonia Abi-Habib) Damaris Gray, BOH Secretary, gave a summary of the Mayors Wellness Campaign section of the Community Picnic and mentioned various medical organizations that were present and gave out information.

Email from Borough Clerk re: Somerset County Septic Management Plan – Damaris Gray stated that she had not received anything from the Board. Kevin Sumner stated that he had responded to the Mayor.

A motion was made by Bruce Ruck to recommend the adoption of the resolution supporting the Somerset County Septic Management Plan, seconded by Kimberly Brown. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

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

Heat Wave/Cooling Stations – Bruce Ruck stated that Watchung needs its own cooling centers and resources for this type of emergency. Kevin Sumner responded that this is the responsibility of the Office of Emergency Management. Damaris Gray was asked to send an email to the Mayor and Carolyn Solon of OEM.

Trees on the Right of Way of Private Properties – Bruce Ruck voiced his concerns for over grown tree branches/limbs on the roads that can cause havoc which should be addressed by the borough.

NJ Lead Grants – Bruce Ruck announced the availability of various lead grants that the State of New Jersey is offering to homeowners to remove lead from their homes.

Dominguez

ADJOURNMENT

Diane Logan moved and **Francesca Escaleira** seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

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

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled to be held September 18, 2024 at 6:30pm, in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted,
Dámaris Quiñones-Gray
Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 9/18/24