



## Borough of Watchung Board of Health

### MINUTES

September 18, 2024 – 7:00 PM

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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: Robert Riedinger, Vice-President, Charlene Virgilio, Diane Logan, Marybeth Lijo and Kimberly Brown  
Absent: Bruce Ruck, President, Francesca Escaleira and Deepika Garg

Also present: Council Liaison Sonia Abi-Habib and Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Diane Logan moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of July 17, 2024. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Bruce Ruck, Francesca Escaleira and Deepika Garg

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

Robert Riedinger gave a summary of the Commission's meeting held in the Summer and commented favorably on their newsletter. He also recommended that Middle-Brook's newsletter be posted to the borough's website and circulated (which has previously been done). Robert Riedinger informed that a Special Meeting of the Commission was held regarding a member town that dropped out of the Commission without proper notice and non-payment of services rendered. The Commission voted not to pursue legal action. Sonia Abi-Habib questioned if the Commission hired legal counsel for this issue. Kevin Sumner responded that they did not. Kevin Sumner explained the history of the Commission and its towns.

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

*July & August* - Kevin Sumner shared updates on the Commission's website and social media. He also commented on the Copper Snake reported recently and the mosquito borne illnesses. He stated that the County routinely test for mosquito borne diseases. He also informed that there was a peak of COVID during the Summer and that we were on the down side of it. Sonia Abi-Habib inquired as to the schedule and details of the spraying for mosquitos. Kevin Sumner replied that very rarely the State will conduct spraying.

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

July & August – no comments.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

MBRHC – Sunshine Law Notice for Commission's meeting of September 16, 2024 (no comments)

## OLD BUSINESS

**MWC - CPR/AED Classes in 2024 update (Teen/Babysitters)** – Diane Logan explained that she had been trying to get in touch with Denise Wilson from the Rescue Squad to set a date. Sonia Abi-Habib stressed that the town is eager to have these classes scheduled.

**Credible Minds** - Kevin Sumner stated that the Board Members were to review the app and make recommendation to the Council. Sonia Abi-Habib informed that this initiative was mentioned to the Council and that no action was taken at the time. Kevin Sumner explained that the Credible Minds platform provides resources for all ages. However, in order for residents to access the app, the Borough has to sign an agreement and pay the yearly fee of \$3,000.00.

A motion was made by Robert Riedinger and seconded by Diane Logan **“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”**. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Bruce Ruck, President, Francesca Escaleira and Deepika Garg

**Mayors Wellness Campaign** – Update regarding participation at Harvest Festival - Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission to provide the Health Mobile for breast cancer screenings. Kevin Sumner explained that the mobile van was unavailable for that date. Kevin Sumner will check with his staff member – Amelia Dominguez, to see what Middlebrook can do to participate at the Harvest Festival. Sonia Abi-Habib gave an overview of the activities and participants/contributors to the Mayors Wellness Campaign section. Robert Riedinger inquired to have a Board of Health table at the festival and asked if Middle-Brook could provide material to have at the table. Robert Riedinger and Diane Logan volunteered to oversee the table along with Amelia Dominguez. Discussion was held in regards to the Board of Health’s participation in the Borough’s community event.

## NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Sumner informed that Middle-Brook will be sponsoring an online Tobacco Vaping Session, a one-hour program, that will be held in November.

Governor Murphy signed a new bill restricting the sale of Cannabis to anyone under 21 years of age. Robert Riedinger explained that manufactures of Cannabis and its products have increase sizes of the products to meet the standards of the Food and Drug Administration and that these vendors are to take these products off open shelves. He also stated that health inspections of these establishments can only be conducted if someone complains. Kevin Sumner informed that the draft of the bill stated that the Health Departments are not allow to enforce this law only the Police Department can enforce it.

## ADJOURNMENT

Diane Logan moved and Charlene Virgilio seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:09 pm. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Bruce Ruck, President, Francesca Escaleira 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: 11/20/2024