



**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
March 5, 2024 - 7:00 PM**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

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, Robert Riedinger – Vice President, Diane Logan, Marybeth Lijo and Kimberly Brown

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Francesca Escalera

Also present: Council Liaison Sonia Abi-Habib

CONSENT AGENDA

Bruce Ruck moved and Diane Logan seconded, a motion to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2024 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain: Kimberly Brown (absent at February 6, 2024 meeting)

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Francesca Escalera

BOH R-1. AMENDING BOH R-2 ADOPTED FEBRUARY 6, 2024, AGREEMENT WITH MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION BY CLARIFYING SECTION 3 to read "Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:3-86 and the duly adopted budget, the Borough of Watchung shall pay the Commission the annual sum of \$132,120.00, to be paid quarterly as invoiced by the Commission.

Bruce Ruck moved and Kimberly Brown seconded, a motion to adopt as amended. All in favor to adopt with the following exceptions:

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Francesca Escalera

BOH R-2. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MRHC - DEFERRED

At the previous meeting Robert Riedinger volunteered to be a member and Marybeth Lijo volunteered to be the alternate. Discussion was held to defer this resolution until the second member is confirmed.

Bruce Ruck suggested to continue with the agenda while waiting for Health Officer Kevin Sumner to arrive.

ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS MONTHLY REPORTS - January

No Incidents reported in January.

OLD BUSINESS

- Watchung Walks – The Board was informed that the Mayor suggested 2024 Kick-off March 18. Bruce Ruck requested Watchung Walks lawn signs be placed around the lake. Discussion was held regarding meeting point and parking. Councilwoman Sonia Abi-Habib informed that there will be heavy construction activity around the area such as the library renovation and PSE&G work. Discussion continued regarding how to attract more participants.

- MWC – Meeting with Recreation Commission –activities/incentives
Bruce Ruck and Marybeth Lijo will meet with the Recreation Commission on March 6, 2024 to discuss a core group initiative for MWC.
- MWC - CPR/AED Classes in 2024 update (Teen/Babysitters) Diane Logan informed that dates will be determined for this year.

Kevin Sumner, Health Officer – Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, arrived at 7:19pm

- Credible Minds - Kevin Sumner gave a summary of this online program and stated that he will send link to the operating application that is being used in Warren, focusing on Opioids and Mental Illness. He stated that it can be used for resources for in-home services regarding Mental Health, Depression, etc.
- Potential change in start time of meetings to 6:30pm
Discussion was held and it was decided to keep Wednesdays at 7pm until it can be decided by the entire board.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION - STAFF REPORT – January

Kevin Sumner gave update on Legionella situation. He briefed the Board regarding sexual harassment complaint against employee at Hand & Stone which Police are investigating.

MIDDLE-BROOK REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION REPORT

Resolution 2024-06 - affirming the Commission will provide public health services and the cost for 2024. Kevin Sumner informed that the Commission held re-organization meeting where a new strategic plan was introduced. He further informed that infectious and respiratory diseases are increasing in addition to CDC guideline changes in regards to COVID.

NEW BUSINESS

Bruce Ruck commented on the Marijuana Laws and selling of marijuana. He informed of the dangers of gummies/packageing and gave his experience at a Warren smoke shop. He stressed – “Buyer Beware”.

Robert Reidinger provided safety guidelines regarding e-bikes (see attached) and asked that Councilwoman Sonia Abi-Habib to recommend the Mayor and Council to adopt their own health and safety guidelines including helmet requirements and share out information to borough residents. He also stated that these guidelines apply to all lithium rechargeable batteries.

Bruce Ruck inquired about the yearly Essex Disclosure and Kevin Sumner stated it comes out in early Spring every year. Bruce Ruck reminded everyone to fill it out and submit.

ADJOURNMENT

Diane Logan moved and Robert Riedinger seconded, a motion to adjourn at 7:56 pm. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Absent: Charlene Virgilio, Deepika Garg and Francesca Escaleira

The next regular BOH meeting is scheduled to be held May 15, 2024 at 7:00pm, in-person at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted,

Dámaris Quiñones-Gray

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: May 15, 2024