

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023**

Meeting called to order by Board President Ember with the following statement:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the Law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice forwarded to the Courier News, Star Ledger and posted in the Municipal Building on December 9, 2022 with a subsequent notice dated February 10, 2023 and filed in accordance with the law.”

Roll Call

Steve Ember - President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Fedosh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ken Griggs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Harrity – Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Nelson – Alt. 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Karen Rutkowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robert Sherr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laura Steinau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Others in attendance:

Paras Dhingra, Public Health Inspector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Quinn – Council Representative	<input type="checkbox"/> - Absent

Minutes: Approval of the May 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Both Executive Committee Session Meeting Minutes are tabled until after the County Contract is fully approved and signed. The May 22 Special Meeting Minutes may still have to be completed by Carmen. We need to confirm that they are completed with her.

Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the May 11, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Board Member Rutkowski. All in favor.

Reports:

A. Monthly REHS Activities Report – May 2023 -

We discussed several issues with the Shopping Center in the middle of town. The Route 28 Farmers Market has not completed the process of replacing the floor. There are issues with potential food contamination and people being exposed to harmful substances. The Dollar Tree has been warned but still has a mess behind their store with excess garbage and cardboard. Also, President Ember expressed concern that about half of the retail food establishments still need to be inspected this year. This is a challenge as no REHS has been assigned to us yet. The previous REHS worked 16 to 20 hours a week.

Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the May 2023 Monthly REHS Activities Report second by Vice President Harrity. All in favor.

B. Monthly Environmental Statistics Report – April 2023 & Monthly Environmental Summary Report – May 2023

The Summary Report should have sections for Noise, Nursing, and Grant Status. There are other missing details on the Summary Report. The BOH did not accept the mentioned reports. Discussion spearheaded by Robert and all in attendance determined. That there was not enough data given to accept report.

C. Registrar's Report, May 2023 – President Ember read the Registrar's Report for May 2023.

Seeing that there were no comments or questions Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the May 2023 Registrar's Report, second by Board Member Steinau and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember Fedosh, Griggs, Harrity Rutkowski, Sherr, Steinau. No: None Abstain: None

D. Board of Health Report – May 2023 – President Ember read the Board of Health Report for May 2023

Seeing that there were no comments or questions Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the May 2023 Board of Health Report, second by Vice President Harrity and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember Fedosh, Griggs, Harrity Rutkowski, Sherr, Steinau. No: None Abstain: None

E. Council Representative Report - None

Correspondence: None

Unfinished Business:

A. Budget and Finance

- Discussed current license fees
- Discussed possibly changing fees which do not reflect normal rates.

B. Website

- Board Member Rutkowski had nothing new to report
- Board Member Steinau suggested that a link for sunscreen protection be added
- President Ember suggested that the Air Quality link be added (airnow.gov)
- Vice President Harrity suggested that the free cancer screenings be added
- If you have any other ideas/suggestions please reach out

C. NJ Local Board of Health Report

The bill (A4115/S2413) to provide \$10 Million in annual funding for local public health programs is stalled. The legislature wants to see evidence of public support for this bill. President Ember will be working on a resolution to support this bill. It may be forwarded to and signed by other public health entities and individuals.

D. Publicity

- Community day on June 3 was a big success
- We will work with John Dowd to have presentations to the public.

E. RFP – BOH Attorney

Board Member Sherr stated that the RFP did not receive any interested lawyers. We will hire a lawyer with the support of the Town Council.

F. Creighton Lake

There was a discussion about the Creighton Lake issue which is being handled by the Town Council. Vice President Harrity stated that we should have a role in this matter.

G. Straight Edge

President Ember visited the Valenti family who attended our meeting in May. They provided documents and a tour of their neighborhood. Straight Edge is gradually moving its operations to their new location at 700 South Avenue. They are waiting for the DEP to approve all of the permits in order for the move to be completed. This process may take another year. In the meantime, the Valenti's and their neighbors may still be subjected to excessive noise, pollution, and bright lights. President Ember will be working with Phil Makrelis, of the County, and our own Code Enforcer to help the Valenti's. Fortunately, the new location is not near any homes in our Borough.

H. Rabies Clinic

It is scheduled for November 4. The County will provide the vaccines and the veterinarian, Dr. Rosaline Cuevas. Les Jones said for us to contact John Dowd to recruit volunteers. Based upon the contract, we think that the County should provide one staff member for this event although Les Jones disagrees.

New Business:

A. Review of State's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

In April, the law firm selected by Governor Murphy signed the contract to perform a post-COVID-19 Pandemic review. There is concern about the lack of public oversight for this review. President Ember is working on a letter to the Governor to request that the public have an oversight role. This letter may also be approved by our Board and forwarded for others to sign on to it. The critical objective is to ensure that we are better prepared for future public health crises.

Meeting Opened To The Public: Nobody in attendance, public portion closed.

Adjournment:

Board Member Fedosh moved for adjournment seconded by Board Member Steinau, all in favor. Next meeting will be held July 13, 2023 at the recreation building.

Ken Griggs
Board Member