

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY JULY 13, 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 type="checkbox"/>	- Absent
Thomas Harrity – Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Kevin Nelson – Alt. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	- Absent
Karen Rutkowski	<input type="checkbox"/>	- Absent
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Minutes: Approval of the February 9, 2023 Executive Meeting Minutes; March 9, 2023 Executive Meeting Minutes; May 22, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes;

Vice President Harrity made a motion to accept the February 9, 2023 Executive Meeting Minutes and the March 9, 2023 Executive Meeting Minutes second by Board Member Steinau. All in favor.

President Ember made a motion to accept the May 22, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes second by Vice President Harrity. All in favor.

Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the June 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice President Harrity. All in favor.

Reports:

- A. **Monthly REHS Activities Report – May 2023** - Public Health Inspector, Paras Dhingra read his report.

Members discussed the rodent problems at in tenant apartment above Romano’s Pizzeria. Board Members discussed the procedures in place after a complaint has been filed. Board Member Sherr recommended surveying the surrounding areas of the property of concern to avoid missing the actual problem areas.

Mr. Dhingra stated that in order for Romano’s to re-open, they have to perform a pre-operational inspection prior to opening.

There was discussion Shear Madness Dog Grooming located at 660 Bound Brook Road. Mr. Dhingra stated that they were issued a fine and is awaiting the Judge's decision. Findings will be included in the July REHS report.

Board Member Fedosh questioned whether or not they are a grooming establishment or kennel. Board Member Sherr recommended that Middlesex perform an inspection to determine if they are indeed just a grooming establishment and not a kennel. Mr. Dhingra stated he will be inspecting them after the meeting.

President Ember questioned who will be performing inspections for those establishments that have not been inspected yet.

There is no new update regarding a new REHS for the Borough. There's a possibility that we will have a new REHS by August or September. There's currently a shortage of inspectors.

Members also discussed the flooring at the Farmers Market. The flooring is still not completed. There was discussion about asbestos at said location.

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 May 2023** - We did not receive the Monthly Environmental Statistics Report for May for the July meeting.

- C. Monthly Environmental Summary Report – June 2023** - Tabled

Board Member Sherr made a motion to table the June Summary report. All in favor.

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 reports, because the reports were incomplete.

Council Representative Quinn recommended that President Ember follow up with an email after contacting Mr. Jones regarding the report. Members would like to invite Mr. Jones to our September BOH meeting.

- D. Registrar's Report, June 2023** – Board Secretary read the Registrar's Report for June 2023.

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

- E. Board of Health Report – June 2023** – Board Secretary read the Board of Health Report for June 2023

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

- F. Council Representative Report** – Nothing new to report.

Correspondence: None

Unfinished Business:

- A. Budget and Finance – President Ember and Board Member Sherr will be meeting to discuss possible changes.**
- B. Website**

President Ember stated that the recommendations to add sunscreen protection and Air Quality link were not added to the website.

Board Member Sherr recommended to add Animal Control’s telephone number and address on the website.
- C. NJ Local Board of Health Report**

President Ember stated that the next meeting is this Saturday. He reported that E-cigarettes usage is up by 45%. He reported that there was discussion about Early Education, focusing on the youth. He also stated that the letter to the Governor regarding post COVID-19 is still in draft form.
- D. Publicity**

President Ember stated that the deadline to submit an article for the Quarterly Newsletter is August 15th.
- E. RFP – BOH Attorney**

Board Member Sherr stated that we solicited two times for a BOH Attorney, and we did not receive any proposals. He stated that he has obtained Peter Perla from Newark, who was recommended by Council President Conahan. He advised the board of the attorney’s role as the board’s attorney. The contract with Mr. Perla will be at a rate of \$175.00 per hour and is capped at \$3,500.00 for the balance of the year ending December 31, 2023. Board Secretary will prepare the Resolution to hire Peter Perla and will be made a part of the August 10th meeting agenda.
- G. Creighton Lake**

There was a discussion about the Creighton Lake issue which is currently being handled by the Council. Council Representative Quinn stated that he cannot discuss the matter at this time as it is a Mayor and Council Executive Session matter. They have issued fines for violations. There was also discussion about purchasing a Hydro racking machine if funds were to be appropriated for such purchase.
- H. Straight Edge**

President Ember stated that he spoke with the Zoning Official, Tyler regarding the Borough Code on light intrusion. The County is handling the noise and pollution issues. It was discussed that 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.
- I. Rabies Clinic**

Is scheduled for November 4th from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Members discussed the need for volunteers. President Ember, Vice President Harrity, and Board Member Steinau have volunteered to help with clinic. It was proposed that the County should provide a representative at the clinic.

New Business:

- A. Proposed Resolution #3-2023 to Support bill A4115/S2413** - President Ember discussed Resolution #3-2023 support of legislation reinstating public health priority funding. 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 made a motion to approve Resolution BH #3-2023 and seconded by Board Member Steinau and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember Fedosh, Harrity, Sherr, Steinau. No: None Abstain: None

- B. Potential Changes to Chapter 272 of the Code Book for MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY ESTABLISHMENTS** – Tabled until August meeting.

Meeting Opened To The Public: President Ember opened the meeting to the public for anybody wishing to speak. Seeing that there were no public comments, President Ember closed the public portion of the meeting.

Adjournment: Board Member Fedosh moved for adjournment seconded by Board Member Steinau, all in favor. Next meeting will be held August 10, 2023 at the Recreation Building.

Carmen Modica
Board Secretary