

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9, 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 type="checkbox"/>	- Absent
Ken Griggs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Thomas Harrity – Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Kevin Nelson	<input type="checkbox"/>	- Absent
Robert Sherr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Laura Steinau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Others in attendance:

Paras Dhingra, Public Health Inspector
Councilman Quinn – Council Representative - Absent
Patricia Clemente – REHS
Jonathan Frodella, PRB Representative

President Ember welcomed Jonathan Frodella, Board of Health Attorney representative.

Mr. Frodella recommended going into an Executive Session by way of an oral resolution to discuss the county contract and potential litigation. President Ember made a motion to go into a closed session, seconded by Vice President Harrity, all in favor.

President Ember requested a motion to change the order of the meeting to have the Public Portion at the beginning of today’s meeting. Board Member Griggs made the motion to move the Public Portion to the beginning of the meeting, second by Board Member Steinau, all in favor.

Mr. & Mrs. Valenti of Sherman Avenue were in attendance. They informed board members of two (2) recent odor issues. Mrs. Valenti stated that the County came out to investigate the odor issues. She questioned why they were not issued a notice of violation. She also stated that the October 24, 2023 call to the County was listed as an idling complaint instead of an odor complaint. She also stated that the complaint filed on October 27, 2023 was not addressed by the County. There was discussion regarding the details within the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Particularly thermoplastic coating. Homeowners were informed that the board has not had the opportunity to review the newest complaints reports.

Mr. Steve Sabik of Wilton Avenue was also in attendance to discuss the on-going issues with Straight Edge. He has obtained the (MSDS). He also informed the board that his dog needed to be treated by a veterinarian due to residue found on his paws. There was discussion regarding the collection of samples. Mr. Sabik was informed that only certified officials are allowed to collect samples. Vice President Harrity stated that the NJDEP sent out a team to swab the area and could not find evidence of contaminants. He advised the Board that he obtained the MSDS sheets for Straight Edge from the NJDEP Air Compliance & Enforcement - Central Regional Office.

There was further discussion with the board regarding the zoning of the area. Board Member Sherr addressed the matter. The board is working on resolving the ongoing issues. Vice President Harrity stated that he reviewed all of the documents related to Straight Edge in the Zoning Office and there was no description of how the company would operate at the site. President Ember stated that we can contact State Senator Bramnick and the Assembly regarding the matter.

The Board advised the homeowners, once again, to continually contact the county with the issues they are experiencing so that there can be an accumulation of recorded complaints.

Minutes: Approval of the October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice President Harrity made a motion to approve the October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by President Ember. All in favor.

Reports:

A. Monthly REHS Activities Report – October 2023 – Paras Dhingra and Patricia Clemente presented the October 2023 REHS Activities report. All complaints have been abated. Board Member discussed the reinspection report presented by Mr. Dhingra. President Ember informed the members that Patricia Clemente is now the fulltime Health Inspector for Middlesex and Dunellen. There was discussion regarding the incident at the High School. Ms. Clemente discussed the violations at the High School but did not have the actual report from the REHS who conducted the original inspection. She stated that she made new recommendations. There was discussion about trash bags located at 70 Orchard Ave off 28, near Hazelwood. Board Member Sherr stated that he asked the Zoning Officer to look into the matter. There was no information available regarding a potential lead poisoning complaint registered in town. Ms. Clemente will follow up on the matter.

President Ember pointed out that the Risk Levels are still missing from the report. He wants them to be added to future reports. Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the report, seconded by President Ember, all in favor.

**B. Monthly Environmental Statistics Report for October 2023 – TABLED;
Monthly Environmental Summary Report for October 2023 – NOT AVAILABLE**

President Ember informed the members that Mr. Les Jones is still working on the format of the County reports. Board Member Sherr made a motion to table the county reports seconded by Board Member Steinau. All in favor. They discussed the communicable diseases report. The format of the reports are still not acceptable.

C. Registrar's Report - October 2023 – Board Secretary read the Registrar's Report for October 2023.

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

D. Board of Health Report – October 2023 – Board Secretary read the Board of Health Report for October 2023

Seeing that there were no comments or questions Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the October 2023 Board of Health Report, second by Board Member Steinau and carried by the

following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Griggs, Harrity, Sherr, Steinau. No: None
Abstain: None

E. Council Representative Report – None. Council Representative Quinn was absent.

Correspondence: None

Unfinished Business:

A. Budget and Finance - President Ember stated that the CFO, Caroline Benson is working on next year's proposed budget. Once he receives the proposed budget, he will be working on it with Board Member Sherr.

B. Website - President Ember stated that he needs to review it.

C. NJ Local Board of Health Report - President Ember stated that the \$10 million Bill will be discussed at the next session. They are making progress, but more details are needed.

D. Publicity - President Ember stated that he forwarded suggestions for the newsletter. He also stated that he spoke to Les Jones to set up a health program/event on Zoom and invite the public.

E. Straight Edge – Discussion about the issues with Straight Edge were discussed in the Public Portion.

F. Rabies Clinic - President Ember thanked Board Members Steinau, Griggs and Harrity for their involvement at the clinic. He stated the clinic was lightly attended. He also mentioned that no one from the County came to help with the clinic. Members discussed the delivery of the vaccines. It should not be handled by any board member due to possible liability. Ms. Clemente mentioned that the vaccines have to be stored at the proper temperature.

G. Potential changes to Chapter 272 of the Code Book for Massage and Bodywork Therapy Establishments – Nothing new to report

H. Planning for Next Year – Board members discussed developing components of the next contract that would provide our requirements for our contract negotiations. Board Member Sherr suggested forming a committee to meet with Dunellen to discuss other options. President Ember stated that Board members should start thinking about roles and objectives. He distributed a timeline for the progression of the contract. They also discussed the fact that they have not received last year's Annual Report from Les Jones.

New Business - None

Meeting Opened To The Public: President Ember opened the meeting to the public; public recognized; public portion of meeting closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – County Contract and Potential Litigation

Adjournment: Board Member Steinau moved for adjournment seconded by Board Member Sherr, all in favor. Next meeting will be held December 14, 2023 at the Recreation Building.

Carmen Modica
Board Secretary