

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY DECEMBER 14 , 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 type="checkbox"/>	- Absent
Kevin Nelson	<input type="checkbox"/>	- Absent
Robert Sherr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Laura Steinau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Others in attendance:

Councilman Quinn – Council Representative
Patricia Clemente – REHS
Paras Dhingra, Public Health Inspector

Minutes: Approval of the November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Board Member Sherr made a motion to approve the November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Board Member Steinau. All in favor.

Reports:

A. Monthly REHS Activities Report – November 2023 – Paras Dhingra presented the November 2023 REHS Activities report. All complaints have been abated. Board Members discussed the inspection findings and newly adopted inspection procedures at the High School. Council Representative Quinn requested copies of the initial and follow-up inspection reports from Ms. Clemente. President Ember stated that several restaurants have not been inspected yet this year. Patricia Clemente informed President Ember that these missing food inspections were not listed on previous reports. President Ember asked Patricia Clemente to include them on the next report.

Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Ken Griggs., all in favor.

B. Monthly Environmental Statistics Report for November 2023 – NOT AVAILABLE
Monthly Environmental Summary Report for November 2023 – TABLED
Monthly Communicable Decease Report – NOT AVAILABLE

The format and details of the reports are still not acceptable. Therefore, Board Members tabled the November 2023 Summary Report.

Board Member Sherr made a motion to table the county reports seconded by President Ember. All in favor.

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

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

- E. **Council Representative Report** – None.

Correspondence: None

Unfinished Business:

- A. **Budget and Finance** - President Ember stated that he and Board Member Sherr worked on the budget and submitted the proposed budget to the CFO. There were only small increases to the existing line items. A new line item was added for Legal Fees. Board Member Sherr informed the members that the Purchasing Agent did not receive any proposals to the RFP for a Board of Health Attorney. The RFP will be re-bid. If there are no proposals received, Board Member Sherr will proceed with soliciting
- B. **Website** - President Ember stated that he has not had a chance to review it.
- C. **NJ Local Board of Health Report** - President Ember stated that the December meeting consisted of Executive Committee members only. There was discussion regarding how CDC Funds were allocated. He stated that the Legislative bill's will be reintroduced next year. Board Members can subscribe to NJ Spotlight Magazine.
- D. **Publicity** – There was discussion about the reduction of About Our Town publication and the Borough's news on the website.
- E. **Straight Edge** – President Ember stated that we should wait to discuss the issues regarding Straight Edge with the new administration. There was also a brief discussion about the fence at their location.
- F. **Potential changes to Chapter 272 of the Code Book for Massage and Bodywork Therapy Establishments** – Members briefly discussed the licensing requirements. President Ember stated they are still looking into the changes.
- G. **Planning for Next Year** – President Ember stated that he briefly spoke to the incoming Mayor who stated that the board should have an action plan and board members should have roles and responsibilities. President Ember informed the members that the board will be working closer with the mayor and council. Council Representative Quinn stated that he will still be with the Board of Health and that it will be councilmatic committee, therefore, there will be three (3) council

representatives involved with the BOH. Appointments for next year have not been approved yet. He would like to write a formal report to present to the new Mayor and Council regarding what the board has done and what their plans are for next year. There was discussion about mandating Mr. Les Jones to attend our next regular meeting. President Ember will be sending a letter to Mr. Les Jones regarding the County's performance and his attendance at our February 2024 meeting.

New Business

- A. Health Clubs, Gyms, Exercise Establishments (BOH Licenses)** – The Board Secretary informed the members that the Borough has not collected fees for any of these establishments in accordance with BOH Ordinance 147-21. It was noted that Ordinance No. 147-21 was introduced, but never adopted. She stated that she will look through previous Ordinance's to compare the language and fees. She also stated that there was discussion regarding what constitutes an exercise establishment. It needs to be addressed in order to update the current Ordinance.

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

Executive Session – County Contract Performance and Requirements

President Ember made a motion to amend the Agenda to add an Executive Session to discuss the county contract performance and requirements, second by Board Member Sherr and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Griggs, Sherr, Steinau. No: None Abstain: None

Adjournment: Board Member Sherr moved for adjournment seconded by Board Member Steinau, all in favor. Next meeting will be held January 11, 2024 at the Recreation Building.

Carmen Modica
Board Secretary