

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024**

The meeting of the Middlesex Board of Health was held on the above date at the Recreation Building, 1400 Mountain Avenue and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Griggs 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 15, 2023, and filed in accordance with the law.”

Roll Call

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| Ken Griggs - President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Steve Ember – Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamza Choudhry – Alt. 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| John Ellery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Melissa Fedosh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rich Gianchiglia, Sr. Alt. 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Kevin Nelson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Robert Sherr | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Laura Steinau | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Others in attendance:

Councilman Quinn - Council Representative
Patricia Clemente – REHS
Timothy Beck, BOH Attorney
Marybeth Caruso, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing

President Griggs welcomed the Board’s new Member, Mr. Hamza Choudhry. Mr. Choudhry read his Oath of Office.

Minutes – Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the February 8, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes, seconded by Board Member Laura Steinau, and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Fedosh, Griggs, Nelson, Sherr, and Steinau. No: None Abstain: Ellery

The Board Secretary informed the board that the February 28, 2024 Executive Session meeting minutes were inadvertently not listed on the Agenda. There was a consensus to add the Executive Session Meeting Minutes to the Agenda. Board Member Sherr made a motion to accept the February 8, 2024 Executive Session Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice President Ember and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Fedosh, Griggs, Nelson, Sherr, and Steinau. No: None Abstain: Ellery

President Griggs welcomed Marybeth Caruso, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing. Ms. Caruso was in attendance to discuss the various programs that the Office of Health Services, Nursing Division has to offer our residents. The programs include:

Adult Immunization Programs
Center for Empowerment
Flu Clinics
Lead Program
Pediatric Child Health Program
Public Health Clinic
Special Child
TB Control Program

She informed the members of the two (2) major projects that are currently underway. The opening of a new Public Health Facility located in East Brunswick and the new Electronic Health Record. The Electronic Health Record will be used to help streamline data, records, and statistics. There was a discussion regarding the archive of records. She stated that they are working on securing a grant for transportation through Uber Health. She also discussed cancer screening and care programs.

Ms. Caruso informed the members that they presented a Mental Health program at the High School. Members requested quarterly reports of activities and services performed in our town. Members stated that they cannot promote the services if they are unaware of them. Vice President Ember stated that he made a recommendation to Less Jones to conduct Zoom meetings as a way of getting information and educating our residents. There was further discussion about notifying residents about the possibilities of outbreaks in our community. Ms. Clemente stated that she performs inspections where there may be an outbreak. Ms. Caruso discussed the process of reporting reportable cases. It was noted that the school board makes their own policy regarding notices sent out to parents regarding a possible outbreak.

Ms. Caruso distributed flyers that contained information about all the services they provide. Residents can obtain more information on the County's website. Members discussed different ways to distribute the flyer and information to our residents.

Reports:

A. Monthly REHS Activities Report – February 2024 – Patricia Clemente, REHS, presented the February 2024 REHS report. Members recognized the improvement of the format of the Activities report. There was discussion about the accuracy of the Risk Type categories listed on the report. Board Members requested that the Risk Types be reviewed to reflect the accurate risk levels. Ms. Clemente addressed the matter. She also informed them that Risk Type 3 establishments are inspected twice a year. The Board recommended that a letter be sent to Mr. Jones regarding their discussion of Risk Type Levels. There was also discussion regarding State Certification for all Risk Types. Ms. Clemente addressed the rodent complaint on Voorhees Avenue. She will be re-inspecting the residence. There was also discussion regarding hand washing signs and proper placement of sinks at food establishment locations. It was suggested that establishments be given three (3) months to correct the matter.

Vice President Ember made a motion to accept February 2024 Monthly REHS Activities Report as amended, seconded by Board Member Gianchiglia. All in favor.

B. Monthly Environmental Summary Report – February 2024 and Monthly Communicable Diseases Report – February 2024 – **TABLED** – Insufficient data and missing information on the report. Vice President Ember questioned the data listed under Air Program in the report Environmental Summary Report.

President Griggs made a motion to table the February 2024 Summary report, seconded by Board Member Steinau. All in favor.

- C. Registrar's Reports – February 2024 – Board Secretary presented the Registrar's Report for February 2024.

Seeing that there were no comments or questions, Board Member Steinau made a motion to accept the February 2024 Registrar's Report seconded by Vice President Ember and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ellery, Ember, Fedosh, Griggs, Nelson, Sherr, and Steinau. No: None Abstain: None

- D. Board of Health Report – February 2024 – Board Secretary presented the Board of health Reports for February 2024.

Seeing that there were no comments or questions, Vice President Ember made a motion to accept the February 2024 Board of Health Report seconded by Board Member Steinau and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ellery, Ember, Fedosh, Griggs, Nelson, Sherr, and Steinau. No: None Abstain: None

- E. Council Representative Report – Nothing new to report.
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Correspondence - None

Unfinished Business

- A. Budget & Finance (includes License Fees) – Nothing new to report.

- B. Website – Nothing new to report

- C. NJ Local Board of Health Association (NJLBHA) – Vice President Ember informed the members that the main discussion at the meeting was regarding cannabis smoking lounges. The Association was opposed to it. He spoke about the NJ Spotlight article regarding COVID review. There was critical discussion about how the Murphy Administration handled the matter. There was also discussion about the Rutgers training program, and he stated that members should be trained. Further discussion about the matter will be held in the coming months. He also informed the members that there's nothing in the new budget for local boards of health.

- D. Publicity (includes Newsletter and other outreach) – Members discussed participating in the Volunteer Fair scheduled to take place on April 20th. President Griggs, Vice President Ember and possibly Board Member Steinau plan to be in attendance. The Borough's Community Day event is scheduled to take place June 8th. Matter to be discussed later. Need volunteers.

- E. Straight Edge – No further updates to discuss. Board Member Sherr informed the Board Attorney of the issues with Straight Edge.

- F. Potential Changes to Chapter 272 of the Code Book for Massage and Bodywork Therapy Establishments – Vice President Ember and Board Member Sherr are working on a letter to the Borough Council regarding the board’s recommendations.
 - G. Health Clubs, Gyms, Exercise Establishments (BOH Licenses) – Nothing new to report. Still need to identify what constitutes an exercise establishment. Need to form a committee. They will be reaching out to other towns regarding their process.
 - H. Opioid Advisory Council – The Council has not formed a committee yet to address the matter.
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New Business

- A. Resignation of Board Member Thomas Harrity. President Griggs informed the member of Mr. Harrity’s resignation. The reason for his resignation was unknown.
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President Griggs introduced the Board of Health Attorney, Timothy Beck. Mr. Beck introduced himself to the Board. The board informed Mr. Beck about the issues they have been experiencing with the County’s performance and the current contract. He stated that the board should pay attention to the terms of the contract. Specifically, the auto renewal clause, if any. The Board Secretary was instructed to forward a copy of the current contract to Mr. Beck. He will be looking at the contract and will advise them accordingly. Mr. Beck will be providing the board with samples of solicitations to help with the process of seeking another Health Services vendor, should there be a need to do so. There was a consensus by the board to send a letter after every meeting to Mr. Jones, regarding any concerns discussed during their meetings. The letters will serve as documentation of the issues and/or concerns being discussed. Mr. Beck felt that he did not need to be present at all our meetings, so he suggested that President Griggs contact him either Friday or Monday before our meetings to confirm if his attendance will be needed.

Public Portion – Meeting Opened to The Public. President Griggs opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there were no public people at the meeting, President Griggs closed the public portion of the meeting.

Executive Session - None

Adjournment

Board Member Fedosh moved for adjournment seconded by Board Member Steinau and carried by a unanimous vote. Next meeting will be held April 11, 2024.

Carmen Modica, Board Secretary