

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022**

The special meeting of the Middlesex Board of Health was held on the above date called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Steve 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 10, 2021 and filed in accordance with the law.”

Roll Call

Steve Ember - President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Fedosh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Harrity – Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Karen Rutkowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robert Sherr – Alternate 1	<input type="checkbox"/> - Absent
Laura Steinau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Peyton Yanchurak	<input type="checkbox"/> - Absent

Others in attendance:

Terence Brundage – REHS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilman Quinn - Council Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

County Representatives: Christina Surowiec, REHS, Water & Pesticides Program and Kimberly Ho, REHS, Water & Pesticides Program Supervisor

President Ember recognized Robert Sherr as an alternate board member, as approved at the August 23, 2022, council meeting.

President Ember welcomed the county representatives to speak to board members.

Kimberly Ho discussed water complaints and testing. She stated that there were three inspections at Lake Creighton at the request of the mayor and results were sent to him. She also stated that there were two complaints, one directly to the County and the other was an NJDEP referral. She stated that the county only performs surface samples. There were no air pollution complaints for August.

Mr. Brundage discussed the Beechwood well issue. Members discussed pursuing procedures for alerting other well owners near problem sites in town.

Ms. Surowiec stated that she was unable to fully address air quality questions, however, she can forward any questions or concerns that members have to the appropriate person to address.

Councilman Quinn informed members that American Water is supposed to take care of part of the dredging at Lake Creighton.

Members asked the County representatives about the status of the fines levied on Spray-Tek for violations.

Minutes – Vice President Harrity made a motion to accept the August 11, 2022, meeting minutes, seconded by Board Member Rutkowski. All in favor.

Executive Session: None

Reports

- A. **Board of Health Activities Report** – Mr. Brundage presented the Activities Reports for August 2022.

Mr. Brundage addressed questions presented by Board Members regarding complaints and food inspections. President Ember expressed his concern that only about half of the retail food places had been inspected through August with only four months left in the year. Mr. Brundage stated that there is a check list that he has to adhere to when inspecting food establishments. He also stated that it is difficult to prove the origin of food poisoning. There have not been any known reports of food poisoning in the past couple of years at the Borough. Members discussed the possibility of doing food preparation surface testing during the inspection process.

Mr. Brundage informed members that Dunellen has a separate ordinance for Grease Trap Inspections. Members expressed interest in having one in Middlesex as well.

Seeing that there were no further comments or questions, Board Member Fedosh made a motion to accept the August 2022 Activities Report, seconded by Board Member Steinau and carried by a unanimous vote by Board Members present.

- B. **Monthly Environmental Summary & Detailed Reports** – There was nothing new to report or discuss regarding the Summary & Detailed Statistics Reports. Mr. Brundage stated that board members can reach out to Mikey Gross via email if they have specific questions.

Board Member Rutkowski made a motion to accept the July 2022 Monthly Environmental Summary report, seconded by Board Member Fedosh and carried by a unanimous vote by Board Members present.

- C. **Registrar's Report** – Board Secretary presented the Registrar's Report for August 2022.

Seeing that there were no comments or questions, Board Member Fedosh made a motion to accept the August 2022 Registrar's Report seconded by Board Member Steinau and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Fedosh, Harrity, Rutkowski, and Steinau. No: None Abstain: None

- D. **Board of Health Report** – Board Secretary presented the August 2022 Board of Health Monthly report.

Vice President Harrity inquired about the fees collected for food establishments that transfer owners. Mr. Brundage and Board Secretary stated that the appropriate fees were collected and were reflected in the July report.

Seeing that there were no comments or questions, Board Member Rutkowski made a motion to accept the August 2022 Board of Health report, seconded by Board Member Fedosh and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Fedosh, Harrity, Rutkowski, and Steinau. No: None Abstain: None.

Correspondence - None

Unfinished Business

- A. **Coordination with Borough Council** – Councilman Quinn explained his role as the Boards Council Representative.

Vice President Harrity inquired about the grease trap inspection ordinance increasing the fees. Councilman Quinn stated that the Board of Health is an autonomous board, and they are authorized to pass ordinances. Members discussed the collection of fees.

Mr. Brundage stated that the issue on Lincoln Blvd. is being handled by DPW on a regular basis.

- B. **County Contract** – President Ember stated that he will be meeting with Borough Administrator Costa regarding negotiations for the new contract. He will also be working with Board Member Rutkowski to discuss the services and programs relevant to the contract. Councilman Quinn stated that Mr. Costa will be attending the November BOH meeting.
- C. **Pollution & Environmental** – President Ember stated that there is nothing new to report. There are no additional test results on the Lake Creighton issue.
- D. **Birth & Death Recording** – Seeing that Board Member Yanchurak was not in attendance, there was no further discussion. President Ember stated a new COVID-19 vaccine will be available soon.
- E. **Budget & Finance (License Fees)** – President Ember stated that he received feedback from Mr. Costa. He will be meeting with Mr. Costa either this month or next to discuss license fees and budget items.
- F. **Website** – Board Member Rutkowski stated that there is nothing new to report.

G. **Rabies Clinic** – Board Member Steinau recommended that we have at least five volunteers. Mr. Brundage informed the members that he has contacted the Vet for the clinic. Since Dunellen is unable to hold their clinic in November, President Ember recommended that we request additional doses of vaccines in anticipation of a bigger turnout at our clinic.

President Ember, Vice President Harrity, and Board Member Steinau will be working at the clinic.

H. **NJ Local Board of Health Association** – President Ember has been unable to attend meetings at this time, so he did not have any information to share. He mentioned that he will be able to attend the next meeting being held this Saturday.

I. **Publicity (Newsletter)** – President Ember stated that we are still able to advertise in Our Town. Deadline for October article is September 15th. He stated that members are to send articles to Mr. Costa, Councilman Quinn, Vice President Harrity, and himself. He also stated that he will be reaching out to the Library regarding presentations/programs there.

J. **Air Quality Flag Program** – Board Members discussed the issues with implementing the program. Board Member Fedosh stated the importance of posting accurate air quality information. Members discussed possibly placing a link provided by the NJDEP on the Borough website for residents to access.

New Business

A. Ordinance 2063-22 - Referendum for Cannabis Retailers

President Ember stated that there was nothing relevant in the Rutgers report regarding how it will affect our town. He stated that he did not see a reason to include the report under the Board of Health web page. Councilman Quinn and Board Members discussed the tax benefit about cannabis businesses in town.

Public Portion

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 made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Rutkowski, all in favor. Next meeting will be held November 10, 2022.

Carmen Modica
Board Secretary