

**MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022**

The 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, with subsequent notice dated January 6, 2022, and January 31, 2022, and filed in accordance with the law.”

**Roll Call**

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

**Others in attendance:**

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

John Dowd, Division Head, Middlesex County Public Health Education & Preparedness Division  
Philip Makrelis, (REHS) / Acting Air Program Supervisor

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**Presentation**

Board members welcomed staff from the county who were present at the meeting.

Philip Makrelis, REHS, Acting Air Program Supervisor stated his role at the County. Mr. Makrelis discussed issues with Spray Tek. He informed members about the process regarding air quality inspections and violations. A code 3 odor level complaint was confirmed on March 23 and a fine was levied. Legal processes are proceeding. Concerns regarding air complaints reported by Board Member Yanchurak were addressed. Members were advised that this is Air Quality Awareness week. Members can log into AirNow.gov for air quality information in Middlesex. Vice President Harrity expressed his gratitude to the County’s response to our complaints.

John Dowd, Division Head, Middlesex County Public Health Education & Preparedness Division, informed members of the various upcoming events such as water safety, and swimming day at the Middlesex pool on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Board Members discussed Sustainable New Jersey and how the committee has been exploring how to obtain accreditation. Mr. Dowd recommended that the Borough reach out to Councilman Gregg Ficarra of Woodbridge for information regarding accreditation. Members were also informed of the upcoming June 24<sup>th</sup>

Sustainable Jersey Summit. Vice President Harrity stated that the Sustainable Jersey Program is more appropriately a Council level initiative that transcends Board of Health responsibilities. This is demonstrated by the requirements for forming green teams and hold green fairs sponsored by council-level ordinances. The council should be alerted to this upcoming event.

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**Minutes** – Board Member Yanchurak made a motion to accept the March 10, 2022, meeting minutes, seconded by Board Member Steinau. All in favor.

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**Executive Session:** None

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## **Reports**

- A. **Board of Health Activities Report** – in the absence of Terry Brundage, President Ember presented the Activities Reports for March and April 2022. Board Members discussed the Raccoon complaint listed on the March report. They requested to revisit that complaint at the July meeting, when Mr. Brundage can address said complaint.

President Ember made a motion to accept the March Activities Report with the condition that it will be revisited at the July meeting and accepted the April Activities Report, seconded by Vice President Harrity, and carried by a unanimous vote by member present.

- B. **Monthly Environmental Summary & Detailed Reports** – County member Mr. Makrelis discussed air pollution complaints during his presentation to the board. Seeing that there were no comments or questions, Vice President Harrity made a motion to accept the February and March 2022 Monthly Environmental Summary and Detailed reports, seconded by President Ember and carried by a unanimous vote by member present.
- C. **Registrar's Report** – Board Secretary presented the Registrar's Report for March and April 2022. Seeing that there were no comments or questions, Board Member Steinau made a motion to accept the Registrar's Report seconded by Vice President Harrity and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Harrity, Rutkowski, Steinau and Yanchurak. No: None Abstain: None
- D. **Board of Health Report** – Board Secretary presented the March and April 2022 Board of Health Monthly report. Vice President Harrity inquired about the allocation of funds collected. Board Secretary informed the members that the funds collected are reserved to cover the costs for the county contract and the rabies clinic.

President Ember made a motion to accept the Board of Health Report with contingency to change how Camp Bow Wow is listed on the April report seconded by Board Member Yanchurak and carried by the following roll call vote by members present. Ayes: Ember, Harrity, Rutkowski, Steinau and Yanchurak. No: None Abstain: None.

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**Correspondence** - None

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**Unfinished Business**

- A. **County Contract** – President Ember stated that he has not contacted the County yet. President Ember will be working with John Dowd. Board Member Rutkowski volunteered to work with President Ember on the contract. They will be looking at the contract to see what services are being offered and to assure the full utilization of covered County services.
- B. **Pollution & Environmental** – Vice President Harrity mentioned that the Board of Health has not received any feedback about the December analysis of water quality at Lake Creighton or actions ongoing with its safety. No further discussed was had by Board Member Yanchurak and Vice President Harrity as concerns were addressed during the presentation by County Representatives.
- C. **Sustainable New Jersey** – Vice President Harrity informed the members and Mr. Dowd that he is the new Borough contact for Sustainable New Jersey. He proposed the necessity for borough council participation in the Sustainable Jersey program. He suggested that Councilman Quinn interact with Mr. Dowd to obtain any specific steps in case there is interest in participating on a community level.
- D. **Birth & Death Recording** – Board Member Yanchurak presented his monthly COVID findings report. He stated that he can no longer access reports at this time. President Ember suggested to reach out to the County.
- E. **Budget & Finance (License Fees)** – No changes. Nothing new to report.
- F. **Website** – Board Member Rutkowski stated that the Board of Health’s Mission Statement has been added to the website. She also stated that the current links on the website, while outdated, are the most recent links from the County. She will continue to monitor the website.
- G. **Rabies Clinic** – Board Member Steinau will be contacting Terry Brundage regarding the distribution of TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) information during the clinic. Further discussion will take place during the July meeting.
- H. **NJ Local Board of Health Association** – President Ember shared what was discussed at the March and April meetings. The main issues discussed were marijuana, COVID-19, and the proposed \$10 to \$12 million for public health funding. He stated that NY State allocates \$1 Billion for Public Health funding annually. NJ should be much more proactive.
- I. **Publicity (Newsletter)** – President Ember informed members to submit anything they may have for the newsletter, directly to him.

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## **New Business**

- A. **Touch-A-Truck Event on June 4** – Vice President Harranty stated that the Library has invited the Board of Health to be present at the event. Flyers/pamphlets will be obtained through John Dowd. The DPW will be creating a Board of Health poster and/or banner to be used during the event and other future events.
  
- B. **Coordination with Borough Council** – President Ember will be contacting Councilman Quinn to discuss communication between borough council and the board. Vice President Harranty stated that the board should be alerted to health and safety issues that come before the town Council. Recently, for example, 3 resolutions that were approved by council at their May 12, 2022 meeting clearly involved health and safety areas related to BOH purview. The BOH is charged with assuring the health and safety of the community and the Council minimally should alert the BOH of all such actions and issues.
  
- C. **Training & Courses** - President Ember requested to inform him of any training or courses that members may be interested in attending.
  
- D. **Local Presentations** – Board Member Rutkowski will be collaborating with President Ember on obtaining guest speakers such as AARP representatives. President Ember will also be reaching out the Senior Services Department about other services.

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**Website** – President Ember asked the Board Secretary to check to see if this is required to be listed in the order of business.

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## **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.

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**Adjournment** - President Ember made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Steinau, all in favor. Next meeting will be held July 14, 2022. Location of the meeting will be determined before the meeting takes place.

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Carmen Modica  
Board Secretary