

**RAMSEY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD February 11th, 2021**

1. President's Announcement

Jeffrey Nemeth called the meeting of the Ramsey Board of Health to order at 8:08 P.M. In accordance with requirement of N.J.S. 10:4-6, Mr. Nemeth made the following announcement:

THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW WAS ENACTED TO ENSURE THE RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO HAVE ADVANCE PUBLIC NOTICE OF AND TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES AT WHICH BUSINESS AFFECTING THE PUBLIC IS DISCUSSED OR ACTED UPON. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE LEGAL AD SECTIONS OF THE BERGEN RECORD AND RIDGEWOOD NEWS ON JANUARY 8TH, 2021. NOTICE OF THIS MEETING BEING HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL WAS GIVEN TO THE BERGEN RECORD, POSTED ON THE BROUGH WEBSITE, AND POSTED ON THE DOORS OF THE BOROUGH HALL.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 13 of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the laws of the State of New Jersey, the regular meetings of the Ramsey Board of Health of the Borough of Ramsey for the year 2021 are held on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M. and until further notice shall be held virtually.

3. Call to order, attendance, minutes:

MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mrs. Tami Azouri	X	
Mrs. Joan Waring	X	
Mr. Jeffery Nemeth	X	
Dr. Albert Tartini	X	
Mr. William Lara	X	
Ms. Heidi Martin		X
Dr. Angela D'Alessandro	X	
Ms. Sara Poppe	X	
Dr. Carla Souza Iudica	X	

IN ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Councilwoman Judy Cusick	X	
Mr. Sam Yanovich, Health Officer	X	
Mrs. Martha Sobanko, R.E.H.S.	X	
Ms. Danielle Monaghan, Board Secretary	X	
Pete Scandanario, Borough Attorney	X	
Jillian , Ambulance Corps	X	

The roll was called by Danielle Monaghan. Motion was made by Jeffrey Nemeth to approve the minutes from the December 2020 meeting as corrected, seconded by Bill Lara and carried by all. A motion to

approve the minutes from the January 2021 Reorganizational Meeting was made by Joan Waring, seconded by Tami Azouri and carried by all. Bill Lara abstained due to absence at the January Meeting.

4. Announcements:

Danielle announced the next COVID-19 testing site being held at the Ramsey train station parking lot on February 24th. This testing site is held by WellCare from 9:30-4:30. More information can be found on the flyer posted on the borough website. Also, the annual rabies vaccination clinic was a success. It was a socially distanced drive through clinic and 145 dogs and 27 cats were vaccinated. Joan said they canceled one of their walks due to weather. The group also walks 2.2 miles around the interstate shopping center when there is snow or ice on the bike path.

5. Codes, Ordinances & Legislation:

Joan reported no updates on mandatory vaccinations. Currently, the governor has not signed the marijuana legislation and extended the deadline to February 18th. The most problematic issue is what penalty should be given to juveniles.

6. Special Matters:

COVID-19:

Sam reported on the State call today that informed mayors and local health departments on what the current vaccination supply status is. Sam explained the setup of clinics and that the plan is to give most of the supply to the Megasites and hospitals. Sam reported Mid-Bergen towns such as New Milford and Leonia are approved sites but have not yet received supply. Some municipalities such as Garfield, Bergenfield, Teaneck and Ridgewood have received supply for local clinics. FEMA is setting up vaccination locations in Trenton, Elizabeth, and Vineland. There is no update on when a local clinic will be held in Ramsey yet. The county asked for all local OEM and Health Departments to provide a vulnerable population list. It is something to start preparing for on a local basis while we wait for more guidance. Jeff asked about the pharmacies receiving vaccine supply. Sam said CVS, Walgreens, Rite-Aid, and other pharmacies are now accepting appointment registrations. Mr. Tartini said they are seeing a 50% decrease in COVID-19 admissions to the local hospitals. Al and Sam discussed the COVID-19 variants and the effectiveness of the vaccines, which is still being studied. Al said the vaccines will still need a booster even after the second does. There has been a very low case count of flu this year. Tami asked about the vulnerable population list that was requested by the state. Danielle spoke with Ralph and Carolyn from OEM. They have the beginning of a list from a few years ago and will work with the health department to create a plan of action to update and maintain that information. There was a Zoom call today with Sam and Joanne on the vulnerable population outreach information and I will reach out to the River Edge Registrar and nurse. She has created a list for their municipality and offered her assistance. A letter of Ramsey's vaccination clinic status was written by Martha and Sam. Tami asked for HARP to be listed as Hackensack Awareness Regional Program. Jeff requested some grammatical changes be made and reposted. Mid-Bergen is perusing a state grant. The HARP agency hired a vulnerable population outreach coordinator who is starting next week. That position will help bring the community access to health care and social supports to Mid-Bergen contracted municipalities.

7. Site Plans:

None.

8. **Public Water Supply:**
The water department continues all routine tasks. They have temporarily suspended non-emergency calls that would require entering the premises due to the increase of COVID-19 cases. Mr. Nemeth discussed the caustic agent that was put into a municipal water supply in Florida. The local water supply system was hacked, and the automated feed was altered to potentially dangerous levels.
9. **Public Health:**
Sam said the state has sent out guidance on trick or treating. Sara said it was posted to Facebook and Danielle said it was posted to the Health and Board of Health page.
10. **Health Education; Communication; Outreach:**
Joan asked when there would be a COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Ramsey. Sam said they are not there yet and it is something they are still working out. Once they receive the supply, Ramsey will be included as well. A letter of support from the Board of Health was mailed January 25th to Vickie Shaw for the Mental Health Awareness Training.
11. **Inspection Reports:**
Martha read her inspections report for the month of January to the Board. There was a conditional satisfactory given to Sarku Japan Teriyaki and Sushi Express. A new cafeteria was completed at Konica Minolta and a preoperational inspection was done. There was pest control complaint reported on Washington Drive and is an ongoing situation.
12. **Abatement Orders:**
Martha read her abatement report to the Board.
13. **Vital Statistics:**
Danielle read her Vital Statistics report for the month of January.
14. **Financial Report:**
Mr. Nemeth read off what income came through Board of Health Licenses and Vital Statistics.
15. **Ambulance; Ramsey Municipal Alliance; other organizations:**
Sara said also the alliance is currently working on their budget and a website. Sara announced the alliance has a virtual event on the legalization of marijuana and what you need to know. So far 80 people have registered. The virtual event will be held on February 24th 7:30 PM via zoom. Sara also reminded the board of health that the Bergen County Prevention Coalition is offering a free TIPS training to employees. This course will inform employees on signs to look for overserving how to mitigate situations. Sara will email Martha about it tomorrow. Danielle said she will send out the link and information on the program to restaurants with liquor licenses in town.

Jillian reported the Ramsey ambulance corps statistic from the month of January. They took 67 calls which included 12 presumed COVID-19 cases and 1 CPR save.
16. **Conferences and Training:**
Danielle said there are webinars and zoom calls frequently to give up to date information on the current public health emergency.

- 17. Council Report:**
Councilwoman Judy Cusick gave information on resolutions passed update on the February 10th council meeting that are pertinent to the board of health. Resolution 0501 authorizing outdoor dining as of March 1st 2021 was passed to help mitigate some of the economic impact on local restaurants. West Bergen Mental Health is applying for a community development grant for the center for children and youth and was passed in Resolution 053.
- 18. Correspondence**
Danielle received the New Jersey Local Board of Health Association and asked the board if they would be interested in joining other municipalities. Sam said the NJLBHA are supportive and advocate for local boards of health.
- 19. New Business:**
Al said that tick season is coming up and he can give his presentation on the topic as he has done in the past. Danielle said if board members would like to prerecord for lecture series it can be shared on the website for residents.
- 20. Review of Assignments:**
Danielle said she will work with OEM to create a plan of action to comprise a vulnerable population list. Sara will share the Bergen County Prevention Coalition TIPS event and Danielle will send it out to the local restaurants with liquor licenses. Sara asked if the testing event is open to the public or limited to Ramsey residents. Danielle said the testing is available to everyone including other towns. Oakland has also opened up their testing location to Ramsey residents and the information is posted on the website.
- 21. Public Comment:**
None.
- 22. Adjournment:**
The Board moved to adjourn at approximately 9:05 PM. Motion was made by Al, seconded by Joan, and carried by all.