

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

1. President's Announcement

Jeff Nemeth called the meeting of the Ramsey Board of Health to order at 8:05 P.M. In accordance with requirement of N.J.S. 10:4-6, Jeff 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 shall be held via teleconference until further notice.

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 Jane Woods	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 Joan Waring to approve the minutes from the February meeting as corrected and seconded by Heidi Martin. A vote to approve was unanimous.

4. Announcements:

Jeff reminded the board member this is an open public forum and asked to please announce yourself before speaking and keep personal comments to a minimum.

5. Codes, Ordinances & Legislation:

Joan said there are no updates on school mandatory vaccinations. The governor has signed the marijuana legislation bill in February. It is currently being amended to include underage penalties for possession. Danielle announced the outdoor dining ordinance went into effect as of March 1st to permit local establishments to have tables and serve outdoors. Joan reported no change in NJ allowing food to be made at home and then sold to the public.

6. Special Matters:

Tami announced HARP is able to facilitate appointment scheduling for seniors over 75. Danielle has been collecting information via google forms and phone calls to schedule appointments for residents. Joan asked about transportation to the sites. Sam said the county is offering rides to the New Bridge location.

COVID-19:

Sam reported the cumulative Ramsey cases to date is 892. Hospital and death rates have decreased nationwide. Lately there is an uptick of about a 2% increase due to variants. NYC has a variant that was first detected in Washington Heights and now spread to other boroughs. Regionally we are at a high level of transmission as of last week and the state positivity rate is 8%. Fully vaccinated individuals as defined by the CDC do not have to quarantine when identified as a close contact of a positive case as long as they remain asymptomatic. State travel guidelines remain the same. The J&J vaccine has been distributed. The state is gearing these doses to the homeless. A benefit of the J&J shot is the standard refrigeration requirements and the single dose. Based on trials the efficacy appears lower at 67% opposed to 95% efficacy for Moderna and Pfizer. Sam said this is due to the trials running while cases were higher and variants were in circulation. But it is just as effective as Moderna or Pfizer. An influx in vaccine distribution to Walmart, ShopRite, HARP, and Megasite has allowed more people to get the vaccine. Joan said it appears the cases in Ramsey are still increasing and asked if it is mostly kids or older people. Sam said he does not get those statistics, but he believes most positive cases are in the middle school and high school population. Young adults do not typically have severe symptoms. Jeff inquired about rides for seniors. Danielle said that Bergen County has partnered with EZ Ride to offer transportation to the New Bridge. The health department has been working with the senior center to coordinate transportation to the Valley Health point of distribution (POD). The health department is now taking request via google doc for appointments at the Megasite which is being scheduled through HARP. Danielle gave an update that a Vulnerable Population Task Force has been created to reach out to the community and identify those residents who may need assistance during a storm and/or public health emergency. A letter was created and is currently being reviewed by administration. We are working with Sam, OEM, and other community leaders as of now. Sam said they hired a vulnerable population outreach coordinator who (VPOC) who started on Monday. She will assess in each Mid-Bergen town by the end of the month. This will identify the vulnerable populations in town and

create a directory of resources for residents. Jeff inquired about vaccination clinics in Leonia. Sam said they have hosted two clinics to date with 200 doses each clinic but the Leonia Mayor has kept them closed POD's for a couple towns.

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. Fire hydrant flushing schedule will begin next month.

9. Public Health:

None.

10. Health Education; Communication; Outreach:

The vaccination outreach was discussed earlier.

11. Inspection Reports:

Martha read her inspections report for the month of February.

12. Abatement Orders:

Martha read her abatement report to the Board.

13. Vital Statistics:

Danielle read her Vital Statistics report for the month of February.

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 announced the February 24th Bergen County Prevention Coalition gave a zoom presentation on the legalization of marijuana. 54 people attended. Many residents reached out who registered but were unable to attend. The presentation cannot be replayed unless someone is available live to answer question per Bergen County Prevention Coalition rules. They will look into having another if no other local towns are hosting one in the near future. On the administrative side, Ramsey Municipal Alliance is creating a website with a local agency. Jillian gave the Ramsey Ambulance Corps. Statistics for the month of February. There were 63 call and 6 were COVID positive cases.

16. Conferences and Training:

None.

17. Council Report:

Jane thanked Danielle for her service to the community and assistance getting seniors vaccinated. Jane reported the municipal budget has been presented with a 0% municipal tax rate increase. Jane thanked Bruce Vozeh and his team which includes Denise Bartalotta, Meredith Bendian, and Councilman Guttwetter. The Ramsey Hockey team won a North Jersey Tournament that went into 4 overtimes which is the longest game in tournament history and won. The design review board has approved two new establishments in Ramsey which are Modern Roots Café and Bar Boutique. The Ramsey Corner

Café was awarded COVID relief money from Barstool Sports which is donating to deserving local establishments.

18. Correspondence

Danielle announced the Farmer's Market having its first participating local brewery.

19. New Business:

None.

20. Review of Assignments:

None.

21. Public Comment:

Sara Poppe asked to circle back to transportation services provided and the topic was revisited. To date we have been coordinating transportation on an as needed-basis around COVID restrictions and best use of availability. Martha thanked Danielle for her work on vaccinations for the seniors and the google form.

22. Adjournment:

The Board moved to adjourn at approximately 8:44 PM. Motion was made by Jeff Nemeth, seconded by Bill Lara, and carried by all.