

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH of the Borough of Paramus held on November 22, 2021 at the Paramus Borough Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by President Nazziola.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dr. Nazziola, Dr. Kyriakakis, Ms. Memon, Ms. Folcarelli

Absent: Ms. Ivanicki

Also Present: Joanna Adamiak, Michael Meyer, Councilwoman Bellinger

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

In accordance with the Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mail to THE RECORD and filed with the Borough Clerk on January 2, 2021.

AGENDA

Reading of the Agenda by Ms. Adamiak.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Nazziola opened the meeting to the public. Since no one else was in attendance, the meeting was closed to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Dr. Kyriakakis and seconded by Dr. Nazziola that the Minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Motion was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Nazziola asked for comments on the correspondence. There was none.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Dr. Nazziola asked for comments on the Health Officer's Report.

Ms. Adamiak briefly discussed the current COVID-19 situation according to the US Food & Drug Administration. She updated the Board about the vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 stating that it was a 2 dose primary series, 3 weeks apart, with a lower dose of 10 micrograms.

On November 14th, all adults over 18 who completed their initial vaccination series with Pfizer or Moderna 6 months ago are eligible for a booster, and those who received the J&J vaccine can receive a booster 2 months after their primary dose.

Also, on November 12th, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services updated its federal visitation guidance for Long Term Care facilities. Facilities can no longer limit the frequency and length of visits for residents.

The COVID-19 Activity Level Report shows the Northeast region of NJ as moderate activity.

The COVID-19 Variant Surveillance Report ending the week of October 30, 2021 reports the Delta Variant as the concern at 99.1%. Also, the NJ COVID-19 Dashboard reports that for all ages, 85% of Paramus residents have completed vaccine doses and the breakdown for ages 12 through 17 is at 49%.

Moved by Ms. Folcarelli and seconded by Dr. Kyriakakis that the Health Officer's report for October be approved as submitted.

ENVIRONMENTAL STAFF REPORT

Our REHSs inspected 57 establishments, with 1 resulting in a Conditionally Satisfactory requiring a re-inspection which resulted in a Satisfactory. The inspectors also responded to 13 Citizen Complaints...received and abated. There was 1 emergency fire call at Miller's Ale house. Also 2 voluntary destructions of food product at Everything Bagel and also at Houlihan's.

Ms. Adamiak briefly reviewed some of the statistics from the Deputy Registrar's report stating that the total revenue for the month was \$5,368.00 and the total year to date was \$193,429.90.

NURSES REPORT

The nurses continue to do communicable disease investigations for elevated blood levels and infectious disease outbreaks. Long term care facilities continue to report COVID-19 cases as required by the State. Blood pressures are being conducted for residents and employees as well as Mantoux shots for employees of Paramus schools and daycares.

The nurses also continue to give Flu shots to residents coming in and for homebound seniors.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control remains busy with 16 calls, 14 animals handled and 2 investigations. They also had 2 loose pets returned to their owners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

At this time, Michael Meyer updated the Board as the "VPOC" (Vulnerable Population Outreach Coordinator). He discussed the recent increase in COVID-19 cases statewide and in the municipality, and reiterated the importance of receiving booster shots. Currently, everyone 18 and older are eligible to receive their booster dose if they received their initial Pfizer or Moderna series at least six months ago, or received their Johnson & Johnson vaccination at least two months ago. Mr. Meyer also stated that the no-cost COVID-19 testing center was booking more appointments than they initially were, as more individuals have been referred by others who had a good experience at the testing location. Especially because the holiday season is now upon us, Mr. Meyer restated the importance of testing and ensuring Paramus residents have access to no-cost PCR testing.

Moved by Dr. Kyriakakis and seconded by Ms. Memon that the various staff reports be approved.

NEW BUSINESS – MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

At this time, Ms. Adamiak stated that the Health Department contracts for Health Education through Valley Hospital, which terminates on December 31, 2021. As the Health Educator is remote and offers minimal services, Ms. Adamiak suggests that we have our own part-time Health Educator to help with protecting and educating the public so that they get accurate information.

A meeting was held with Mr. D'Arco and a representative from Valley Hospital regarding a Health Educator and educational programs for the future. Michael Meyer created a specific needs assessment for Paramus to assist in creating Health Education initiatives specifically for Paramus. Therefore, everything is pending upon Valley submitting a proposed health education plan for Paramus for 2022. The Board agreed with the process as long as the needs of Paramus residents are met. Ms. Adamiak stated that we need to be more creative and innovative as to what programs we present to Paramus residents in the future.

Ms. Adamiak again suggested changing the time and frequency of the BOH meetings. She suggested that we change the time from 8:00 to a bit earlier, perhaps 5:00 so that besides making it a bit more convenient for the Board members, it may also allow more residents to attend at an earlier time. She also suggested that we limit the number of meetings from 10 to 7 (Jan, March, May, June, Sept, Nov & Dec.) and possibly change the day to Wednesday instead of Monday. Ms. Adamiak asked the Board to consider these changes for the year starting 2022. The Board agreed on the changes, but will come to a definite decision at the December meeting.

At this time, Ms. Adamiak relayed that we are having a 100th year centennial celebration for Paramus. Michael Meyer has been heading up the project for our department gathering historical information about Paramus including newspaper articles and photos from years ago. Some of the information includes the history of the Health Department starting in 1922, when in 1923 the first sanitary code was first published outlining the roles then of the Registrars, the Health officers, the Inspectors and the Public Health Nurses. Mr. Meyer stated that the information outlines the creation of the Paramus Health Department and how it has remained and expanded as an important institution for all residents. This information, which will surely be of great interest to everyone will be displayed in January during the Centennial celebration along with the other Departments and their findings.

At this time, Ms. Adamiak informed the Board that Ralph, the Senior REHS, was in a traffic accident in September, still recuperating and his return date to work is undetermined at this time. In the interim Ms. Adamiak has rehired Mr. Dave Volpe to help out during Ralph's absence. Mr. Volpe has been an asset for us before and was a Health Officer and a Health Inspector in the past. We are very fortunate that he was able to come back from working in Fair Lawn, as Dave has been a wealth of information for us with his experience in the health field for so many years, now working as a State Health Officer.

At this time Councilwoman Bellinger brought up several questions and problems she has encountered with students in sports and how to handle quarantining when someone is exposed or has contracted COVID-19. The Board members joined in the discussion as to who is responsible for determining how student exposures are handled and what quarantine timeframes should be adhered to and who is responsible for notifications that an exposure has occurred. The discussion continued for quite a while and ended with Ms. Adamiak stating that she would look into it and have some answers for the Board as soon as possible.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Resolution No. 21-10-1 Beauty/Nail Salon Licenses– 2021

Moved by Dr. Kyriakakis and seconded by Ms. Memon that the attached Beauty/Nail Salon Licenses Appendix I-BNS I12625 through I-BNS 112621 be approved.

Motion was approved.

Resolution No. 21-10-2 Food establishment License – 2021

Moved by Ms. Memon and seconded by Dr. Kyriakakis that the attached Food Establishment License Appendix A-FH 112629 be approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Board, upon motion by Dr. Kyriakakis and seconded by Ms. Folcarelli and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Adamiak
Board of Health Secretary