

**WATCHUNG  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
October 17, 2018  
7:45 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER-**

**President's Statement-**

Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting has been posted and sent to the official newspapers.

**ROLL CALL-**

Robert Riedinger ( P ); Harriet Stambaugh ( P ); Fran Ellis ( A ); Bruce Ruck ( P ); Ronald Jubin ( P ); Peter Savulich (A); Francesca Escaleira (A); Julia Gunther (A), Diane Logan (P)

Also in attendance were Middle Brook Representative Kevin Sumner.  
Council liaison, Stephen Black arrived at 8:10 PM.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 16, 2018

Following a motion by Robert Riedinger and a second by Ronald Jubin the minutes were unanimously approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**HEALTH OFFICERS REPORTS FOR - May/June/July/August/September**

Bruce questioned the algae at the lakes and Kevin explained that a company was contacted, Great Blue Lake, who did come and treat the lakes. He said this algae condition was due to all the rain we have had. Bruce also said the fountains were not working and it was explained they became clogged from the algae.

**REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO MIDDLE BROOK (Commission Report)**

Kevin was asked about Bound Brook leaving the Commission and he responded that they had officially left in July. He also said there should be no impact on the other towns in the Commission since there is now one less staff member and also all children, except for one, utilizing the visiting nurse service were from Bound Brook eliminating those costs as well. Kevin also explained the Commission has enough in reserves for many years. He also mentioned there is a possibility that Middlesex may decide to come back to the Commission since they are not happy with the services the County has been providing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mold in schools – Bruce and Kevin explained they were contacted and there was a meeting set up with the school administrator and superintendent. The electricity in the wing went down and therefore there was no circulation and this caused the mold, which was visible. The area was cleaned which cost over \$250,000 with \$100,000 deductible which the school is hoping the insurance will cover. The school will be putting in a new vent system with alarms to prevent this from happening again in the future. Kevin said the meeting with the school was a good step toward a better relationship between the Borough, Board of Health and the schools.

Lead at Watchung Library- Kevin explained once he was contacted with the test results there was no exposure to lead. He explained that Watchung does not have any children with a high level of lead.

Councilman Black explained that he wanted to get quotes for painting the building since it is Borough property and is in need of maintenance, at which point Councilman Nehls looked at reports he had for lead in the building and it was determined until testing could be done the library had to be closed on Friday. He explained a company was contacted and they did the testing the next day and the library was reopened the following Tuesday. Bruce said the Council did reach out to him and Kevin and Councilman Black said everything went well.

Questions were brought up regarding the AFM disease that has been in the news recently. Bruce said there have been 2 confirmed cases in New Jersey and a total of 222 cases nationwide. Kevin explained that even though people are calling it a "polio" like disease it has no connection whatsoever to that disease. It affects mostly children under the age of 10. Bruce suggested Kevin send a notice to the school nurses and administrators. Harriet did not agree with his suggestion but after further discussion it was determined to have Kevin send something to the schools, but only to school administrators and nurses to alert them of this disease but not for the schools to send anything to parents.

Bruce Ruck asked members their thoughts on legalizing marijuana in the Borough. He has no opinion but said if it was decided that Watchung would allow sales of this they must have restrictions on how this is presented for sale. Specifically items must be in child proof containers and the wording should not have any content that may be confused for candy, etc.; and what is the benefit to Watchung if this was approved? Harriet said Canada has just approved the sale of this but can only be purchased online. It was the consensus of members in attendance to send a letter to the Mayor and Council that the Board would be opposed to legalizing the sale of marijuana of any form in the Borough. Kevin said the State is not ready yet and there are many issues to be considered first. There are benefits to the use of marijuana for medical purposes. He also said 90% of this in other towns would be in an edible form. Bruce also said there is no level to determine impairment if someone were to be stopped while they are under the influence of this. Harriet said there should be more investigation before approving any sales. Councilman Black said he would discuss this issue with the Laws and Ordinance Committee. Most members were of the opinion that marijuana is a gateway to the use of more potent drugs.

#### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No one from the public was in attendance

#### **ADJOURNMENT-**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on November 28, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*MaryAnn Hance*  
*Secretary*