

Agenda  
1/16/20

**WATCHUNG  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019  
7:00 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 (A); Fran Ellis (A); Bruce Ruck (P); Ronald Jubin (P); Peter Savulich (P); Francesca Escalera (P); Julia Gunther (P), Diane Logan (A)

Also present were Health Officer Kevin Sumner and Council Liaison George Sopko.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES –June 12, 2019**

Prior to the vote Ronald Jubin asked to amend the record that he was in attendance at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Following a motion by Bruce Ruck and a second by Peter Savulich the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

**CORRESPONDENCE/MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

Received: June 21, 2019 – Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick – response to Board's letter requesting his support on immunizations.

Sent: June 13, 2019 – Requesting support on the immunization Assembly and Senate Bills:

Watchung Borough Mayor and Council

The Honorable Phil Murphy, Governor

Senator Stephen M. Sweeney, President State Senate

The Honorable Assemblyman Craig Coughlin, Speaker NJ General Assembly

The Honorable Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr., United State Senate

The Honorable Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick

The Honorable Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz

The Honorable Shereef M. Elnahal, Commissioner of the NJ Dept. of Health

**HEALTH OFFICERS REPORTS - June/July/August**

Bruce Ruck questioned the entry on Kevin's report on June 9<sup>th</sup> which requested information on alternative treatment centers. Kevin stated the local board of health would have nothing to do with these and they would be directed to reach out to the Board of Medical Examiners. He said there was also an inquiry regarding the possibility of opening a location for medical marijuana and this was referred to the Mayor and Council. Bruce also questioned the June 18<sup>th</sup> Lyme disease discussion with a resident and Kevin said this was nothing specific it was only a general discussion.

Ron Jubin asked about the goose control product. Kevin this is still pending and no decision has been made at this time. Ron also questioned if there is an Ordinance in the Borough regarding well testing.

Kevin said a resident may do a well test if they think there is an issue. However, a well test is required for a property transfer and there is a permit required for this which is available at Borough Hall.

Bruce questioned the report that a bat was unfit for testing and asked why this would happen. Kevin responded that the bat may have been dead too long. He said the resident would be informed and recommend they contact their health provider.

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

No meeting has been held.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board then discussed vaping. There have been nine suspected cases of illnesses in New Jersey with four reported incidents. The products are controlled by the FDA. It is undetermined if vaping caused lung ailments.

Members asked if vaping vs smoking is beneficial alternative and also if the Borough could have stricter laws than the State.

Ron Jubin said the biggest concern is the possibility acute health issues over a long period of time. Kevin said if vaping is banned completely it could cause "black market" sales. He also said he has contacted the schools.

Robert Riedinger suggested the Council Liaison to the Board of Education should ask them how they are handling the vaping situation in the schools.

Bruce said he would contact someone at the High School Peter Savulich said Jill Gleason would be the person to contact, since she has been very helpful in the past.

The Board requested Councilman George Sopko discuss this with the Mayor and Council and give a copy of the Middle-Brook notice warning the public regarding the outbreak of lung illness associated with E-cigarette products.

Kevin reported there have been incidents of minors being sold these products. The State Health Department has been contacted and they will send minors out to do random checks. The Police Department did witness sales to two minors.

Julia Gunther said it is the Board of Health's job as well as the Borough and the schools to get out as much information as possible to the public on the e-cigarettes and vaping.

**Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)** was discussed at length. Ron Jubin said this is a mosquito borne virus which is very deadly to horses and very dangerous to humans. If a person has any symptoms such as sudden onset of headache, high fever, chills, and vomiting they should contact their medical physician as soon as possible for treatment. Kevin said there has been one case in Somerset County. There have been no mosquitos in Somerset County that have tested positive to date.

Residents are reminded to reduce or remove all standing water on their property from old tires, water from pool covers, change water in birdbaths at least twice per week, and clean debris from roof gutters.

Members discussed the date for the next Board meeting the initial one scheduled is during the League Conference. It was decided to schedule a meeting for October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to discuss any new information received regarding e-cigarettes and vaping.

It was also decided to schedule another meeting for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. mainly to discuss the budget for 2020.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

No Public was in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT-**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on December 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Blvd., Watchung, NJ 07069.

Respectfully submitted,

*MaryAnn Hance*  
*Board of Health Secretary*