

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

December 16th, 2020

7:00pm Virtual Meeting

Phone Number: 712-775-8973

Conference Code: 670345

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

President's Statement

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

Roll Call

Present: Bruce Ruck (President), Julia Gunther (Vice President), Diana Logan, Fran Ellis, Francesca Escaleira, and Peter Savulich.

Absent: Meghana Anandarangam and Nilima Palekar.

Also present is Middlebrook Regional Health Commission, Health Officer Kevin Sumner and Council Liaison Ronald Jubin.

Consent Agenda

Fan Ellis moved and Peter Savulich second, motion to approve the minutes for August, 19 2020. All unanimously approved.

Health Inspector Reports

August, September, October, and November reports were reviewed. No additional comments or questions.

Report of Representative to Middle Brook (Commission Report)

Discussion was focused on finances, grants, salaries and COVID-19.

Negotiations were discussed regarding Bridgewater joining the Commission in January 2021.

COVID-19 vaccinations were discussed, along with providing housing and food to the community.

New Business

Resignation:

- As of December 15th, 2020, Harriet Stambaugh will be resigning from the Board of Health.
- Bruce expressed what an outstanding member Harriet Stambaugh is to the Board of Health. Bruce also discussed the future resolution with the Mayor and Council during their next meeting for Harriets service.
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Old Business

No old business.

Health Officer's Report on COVID-19

Since December 16th at 10:00 am, there have been 202 confirmed cases in Watchung. The ages range between 9 years of age to 101 years of age. There have been 15 deaths in Watchung over the age of 65. Kevin Sumner states that all ages are affected, but most are around the age of 20 to 65.

Case investigation and contract tracing is ongoing. There has been a big raise in cases due to Thanksgiving. The response rate for contact tracing has been about 50%. Watchung schools are working with the Board of Health with contact tracing and asking a lot of important questions.

Vaccination:

- The morning of December 15th, vaccinations started in New Jersey. The first doses are going to be given out to high risk health care providers.
- 16 years of age and above were approved for the vaccine.
- Kevin Sumner states at this time, the Commission does not have the resources to store the vaccine.

Budget

Animal Control:

- Kevin Sumber suggests that it should be left up to the Watchung Borough Administrator based on the contract negotiation.
- Kevin suggests keeping the budget the same as 2020 which is \$17,300.

Julie Gunther moved, Fran Ellis second, motion to approve keeping the budget the same. All unanimously approved.

Health and Welfare:

- Kevin Sumber suggested keeping it at \$5,000, the same as 2020.

Operations Side:

- Kevin suggested keeping the same as past years.

Advertising:

- Kevin suggested keeping the same as past years.

Membership Dues:

- Kevin suggested keeping the same as past years.

Professional Media

- Kevin suggested keeping the same as past years.

Program and Training:

- Kevin suggested keeping the same as past years.

Commission:

- Kevin Sumner suggested a 2% raise for employee salary. The Commission felt like they are understaffed and would like to hire a full-time REHS instead of part-time, which then will impact the overall budget.
- Watchung's agreement would be \$124,498, which is a \$19,526 dollar increase.

Approval:

Fran Ellis moved, Peter Salvich second, motion to approve keeping the budget the same except for the Commission budget. All unanimously approved.

Public Portion

No public in attendance.

Adjournment

Julia Gunther moved and Fran Ellis second, motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm. The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on January 20th, 2021 at 7:00 pm. In order to comply with all NJ Executive Orders and to protect members of the public, current meetings will be held virtually for all parties until such time when in-person meetings can safely resume while complying with all NJ Executive Orders. When in-person meetings resume, they shall be held at Borough Hall, 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Long

Board of Health Secretary

Approved: 1/20/2021