



## **BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG - BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2022 AT 7:00PM**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**PHONE NUMBER: 1 646 558 8656**

**Conference Code: 507843**

**Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94234059374>**

### **Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

### **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, Charlene Virgilio – Vice President, Diana Logan, Meghana Anadarangam, Robert Reidinger

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, Kimberly Brown

Also Present: Ron Jubin – Council Liaison, Robyn Key – Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission and Damaris Quinones-Gray, Secretary

Francesca Escaleira arrived at 7:15pm

### **Consent Agenda**

Diane Logan moved and Charlene Virgilio seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting. All were in favor with the following exceptions:

Abstain: Meghana Anadarangam, Robert Reidinger

Absent: Francesca Escaleira, Kimberly Brown

### **Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission - Staff Reports**

Robyn Key gave summary on the new businesses opening at Phenix Salon Suites. Discussion was held on the rental of the suites to different businesses and legality of same. Robyn explained that all health requirements have been met for the two new establishments. She also mentioned new swimming school – Blue Swim at Watchung Square Mall, that upon completion of satisfactory inspections should be opening in the near future.

### **Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission Report – Commission Meeting, etc.**

Bruce Ruck stated that no commission business to report except that a representatives of the board should be assigned to the Commission at the next Board meeting.

## **Old Business**

- **Update: Watchung Walks/Mayors Wellness Campaign – Paused for Cold Season**  
Bruce Ruck questioned the decision to cancel the walks and Council President Ron Jubin explained that he made the executive decision to pause the walks until Spring due to time change and unsafe issues with darkness, sidewalks in certain sections of the trail, etc. He suggested possibly changing the day and time to Saturday mornings in the future.
- **St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center – discontinuing animal control services (RFP Update)**  
Council President Ron Jubin informed that an RFP is in process and a vendor should be voted on by the Council soon.
- **Meghana Anadarangam – status on the Board**  
Meghana Anadarangam confirmed that she intends to continue serving on the Board.
- **Review of policies regarding:**
  - **Garbage can use for food establishments**  
Bruce Ruck stated that Health Officer Kevin Sumner was looking into food establishment requirements for cans, location of cans, weights for lids, etc. to keep animals out of garbage receptacles. Robyn Key explained that Zoning should have the requirements regarding dumpster locations, etc.
  - **Massage therapy establishments that result in prostitution arrests.**  
Discussion was held regarding prostitution issues in massage therapy businesses. Robyn Key informed that she is able to recommend maximum fines and penalties. However, she does not have the authority to shut a business down based on illegal activity. Robyn Key also mentioned that the law is written in such a way that the business owner is not held responsible for hiring massage therapists that are not licensed. Council President Ron Jubin stated that he will bring this matter to Joe Sordillo, the Borough Attorney to see if the Council's Law and Ordinance Committee can revise current ordinances to help regulate this type of issue which is a police matter and not a health issue.
  - **In-Person Meetings.**  
Bruce Ruck informed that discussion was held and it was decided by the members present at the last meeting that virtual meetings will continue and the possibility of conducting in-person meetings will be revisited in the future.

## **New Business**

- **New Ordinance to be introduced by Council – Prohibiting feeding of Wild Life.**  
Council President Ron Jubin informed that the Council's Laws & Ordinances Committee will introduce an ordinance that will prohibit the feeding of all wild life on private and public property throughout the Borough that will be enforced by the Police or Health Department. Discussion was held regarding disclaimer regarding bird feeders, etc. He further stated that he sent the original draft to Health Officer Kevin Sumner asking if in his experience throughout the Commission and in general to see if he had ever heard of anything like this before. He further continued that Kevin Sumner said no and that he thought that this would be problematic to try to have the health inspectors be enforcers as well.

- **Mayors Wellness Campaign**

Bruce Ruck stated that Councilwoman Christine Ead told him that she's gotten great ideas from the League of Municipalities Conference regarding the Mayors Wellness Campaign that she would like to share with the Board.

**Public Portion**

No public in attendance.

**Adjournment**

Bruce Ruck moved to adjourn the meeting and Diana Logan seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm. All were in favor with the following exceptions: Absent: Kimberly Brown.

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be held on January 18, 2023 at 7:00pm via zoom at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94234059374>.

In order to comply with all NJ Executive Orders and to protect members of the public, 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,

*Damaris Quiñones-Gray*

Secretary, Board of Health

Accepted: 1/18/23