

**RAMSEY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 09, 2023**

**1. President's Announcement:**

Tami Azouri called the meeting of the Ramsey Board of Health to order at 8:08 PM. In accordance with requirement of N.J.S. 10:4-6, Mrs. Azouri made the following announcement:

THE NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW WAS ENACTED TO ENSURE THE RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO HAVE ADVANCE PUBLIC NOTICE OF AND TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES AT WHICH BUSINESS AFFECTING THE PUBLIC IS DISCUSSED OR ACTED UPON. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE LEGAL AD SECTIONS OF THE BERGEN RECORD AND RIDGEWOOD NEWS. NOTICE OF THIS MEETING BEING HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL WAS GIVEN TO THE BERGEN RECORD, RIDGEWOOD NEWS, POSTED ON THE BROUGH WEBSITE, AND POSTED ON THE DOORS OF THE BOROUGH HALL.

**3. Call to order, attendance, minutes:**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Tami Azouri	X	
Dr. Angela D'Alessandro	X	
Dr. Banafsheh Goujani	X	
Heidi Martin	X	
Dr. Carla Souza-Iudica	X	
Dr. Albert Tartini		X
Joan Waring	X	
Christoph Haas, Alt. 1	X	
Judi Kennedy, Alt. 2	X	

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Mr. Peter Kilman, Council Liaison	X	
Mr. James Fedorko, Health Officer	X	
Mrs. Martha Sobanko, R.E.H.S.		X
Ms. Danielle Monaghan, Registrar/Board Secretary	X	
Jillian Beilen, Ambulance Corps		X

Mrs. Azouri read the president's announcement. The roll was called by Danielle Monaghan. A motion was made by Judi Kennedy to approve the minutes from the January meeting, seconded by Carla Souza, and carried by all.

**4. Announcements:**

Tami began with announcing the Ramsey Journal Spring edition. They ask all committees in the town to write an article. Submissions are due on March 17<sup>th</sup> and will be published in April. Tami passed out the email with the requirements and recommendations. Tami asked if there was anyone who would want to write an article? Jim offered for Kelley Grippo to write something. Tami said she was also going to

recommend that. Jim said the topic could be rabies. Tami said maybe we should do something that would be upcoming instead of what just passed. Joan said people have been asking when we are having more CPR classes. Tami said maybe we can have a training session in April. Heidi recommended the mental health first aid training. Tami said HARP does not do that, but Michaela is trained in adolescents. Angela said it is provided through the county. She brought it back to the board a few years ago after she was trained herself. Tami said HARP will also reach out to the ambulance corps to coordinate. Chris recommended ski safety as a topic. Tami said that could be a good topic to submit for the fall and suggested a fall prevention in the fall theme. Mackenzie from HARP does fall prevention training in the emergency rooms. Joan said we could also have a section for events called coming up. Chris said the rabies clinic is already passed and the article should be something up and coming. Jim said if our article is about sun safety, Mid-Bergen can provide sunblock to the health department and can be free to pick up by residents while supplies last.

**5. Codes, Ordinances & Legislation:**

The NJDOH provided 2023 Childhood and Adult Immunization Schedule Updates which include new or updated recommendations for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, the addition of a new vaccine for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and a new vaccine for Hepatitis B, the addition of guidance describing recommendations for situations requiring additional doses of the MMR vaccine during a mumps outbreak, the addition of guidance describing the use of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) in people 18 years of age and older who are at increased risk for exposure to polioviruses, and the addition of guidance describing that serologic evidence of prior varicella is not necessary for zoster vaccination as well as guidance on what to do in the event serologic evidence of varicella susceptibility becomes available.

**6. Special Matters:**

Joan addressed the photo of healthy bones that she mentioned before and wanted to give a background to the new members. Joan gave a description of the two ongoing and successful programs that the Board of Health has supported, Project Healthy Bones and the Ramsey Walking Group. There are 9 walking groups each week. Project Healthy Bones started 14 years ago and focuses on osteoporosis prevention. A photo will be in the Ramsey Neighbor Magazine.

**7. Site Plans:**

None.

**8. Public Water Supply:**

The water operations report for January provided by Mike Skorupa was read by Danielle.

**9. Public Health:**

Jim thanked the Ramsey Board of Health, for volunteering their time and promoting health in their town. Jim read his monthly report. From March 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022 there were 22 confirmed COVID-19 related deaths in Ramsey. Range 46 to 101 years of age. Tami asked how the COVID death numbers compare to the flu, specifically for Ramsey. Jim said he supposed he can collect that data and compare. Jim also announced next month he will report on the local needs assessment. As of January 9, 2023, Ramsey has a COVID bivalent vaccination rate of 26%. Garfield is at 10%. Tenafly has the highest at 32% in Mid Bergen's jurisdiction. From January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 the following confirmed and probable communicable diseases were identified: COVID = 1,129; Influenza = 130; Lyme disease = 20; Food Borne Illnesses = 13; Hepatitis B = 3; Hepatitis C = 3; Monkeypox = 2; Streptococcus pneumoniae = 2; Legionellosis = 1; West Nile virus = 1.

- 10. Health Education; Communication; Outreach:**

Tami said HARP continues their monthly visits to the senior center for blood pressure screenings and the ask the nurse program. Today HARP went to Woodlands and gave a talk on heart attacks and strokes since it is heart month. They had a registered dietitian to talk with people and go over concerns. Next week they will be at the senior center for stress management and provide meditation, aromatherapy and Reiki on Valentine's Day. Danielle reported the annual Rabies Clinic was held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 1-3PM at the Ramsey Rescue Building. Dr. Joseph Desanto from Oradell Animal Hospital, vaccinated 114 dogs and 9 cats.

In January, the Ramsey Ambulance Corps responded to a total of 129 calls, 15 were mutual aid, and 5 were COVID related.
- 11. Inspection Reports:**

Danielle read Martha's monthly inspection reports for January.
- 12. Abatement Orders:**

Danielle read Martha's monthly abatement reports for January.
- 13. Vital Statistics:**

Danielle read her Vital Statistics report for January.
- 14. Financial Report:**

Danielle read the financial report for January. \$100 Septic Tank license is being added to Gov Pilot.
- 15. Ambulance; Ramsey Municipal Alliance; other organizations:**

RMA's "What's So Funny" comedy show was a very successful event. The comedians did a show and shared their personal stories afterwards. Over 75 people attended and RMA raised \$2,000. The next RMA event is at Don Bosco on March 10<sup>th</sup> for the Wizards basketball game sponsored by LEAD.
- 16. Conferences and Training:**

Danielle spoke about the Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Course taken at Rutgers's School of Public Health.
- 17. Council Report:**

Peter said in relation to the board of health, the 2023 budget and contracts are being negotiated and everything is increasing significantly including garbage and recycling contracts. Along with every other industry, this industry was significantly impacted by COVID due to gas prices and difficulty finding employees. For example, the contract for garbage pickup in 2022 was \$634,000, not including recycling, for two times a week. For 2023, the proposed budget is \$1,225,000. There not many companies that offer curbside pickup, and some towns are not even going to do recycling anymore. In 2022, the recycling contract was \$263,000 and for 2023 the proposed contract is \$489,000. Joan asked if there is only cost and no return involved with garbage and recycling now? Peter said not anymore. No one is buying cardboard and people that we used to be able to sell to and get back some of the cost are not buying it. Peter said we will need to find new and innovative ways to solve these problems arising from the increase in cost.
- 18. Correspondence**

The New Jersey Local Board of Health Membership Renewal notice was provided to the board. All members agreed to renew the membership and provide their emails for the newsletters.

**19. New Business:**  
None.

**20. Review of Assignments:**  
Tami gave a review of assignments beginning with the Ramsey Journal spring topics including mental health first aid training from county, hands only CPR training in April, sun safety and sunscreen. Ideas for the fall journal submission included fall prevention for fall, ski safety, and the rabies clinic.

**21. Public Comment:**  
None.

**22. Adjournment:**  
Board moved to adjourn at approximately 9:20 PM. Motion was made by Christoph Haas, seconded by Tami Azouri and carried by all.

**Borough of Ramsey**  
**Registered Environmental Health Specialist Report**  
**January 2023**

**Food Establishment Inspections/Prepackaged Stores:**

**Satisfactory**

Bolla Market  
Bolla Market/Burger King  
Bottle King  
Buono Bagels  
Burger King (N. Franklin Turnpike)  
Cars Delivery  
Dunkin Donuts (North)  
La Gondola  
La Pasadita  
Lettuce Inn  
McDonald's  
Mindful Café  
Old Navy  
Panera Bread  
Quick Chek  
Ramsey Exxon  
Steve's Market

**Conditionally Satisfactory**

Tawara

**Hair & Nail Salon Inspections**

**Satisfactory**

OHM Skincare & PMU

**Dog & Cat Bites**

*None for the month of January*

**Complaints**

**Rabies**

98 N. Island Avenue

1 – bat captured and sent down to state for rabies testing. No evidence of rabies virus was found based on direct fluorescent antibody microscopy.

**Sewage**

450 Island Road

The complainant stated that there is a sewage smell in their apartment. They stated that a plumber confirmed that there were several cracks in the pipe. I spoke with management company and they assured me that the issue has been taken care of. They sent over the bill from the plumber. Abated until further notice.

**Site Plan Waivers**

875 Route 17

Grammy's Pantry &amp; Butcher Shop

**Mold**

246 N. Franklin Turnpike

The complainant stated that there is a strong smell of mold in the unit she is renting for her business. I gave her OSHA's information but went out to investigate and at the time there was no visible mold in the entire unit. Abated until further notice.

**Court**

170 Williams Drive

The owner of the above property was issued a summons for the condition of the garbage. The property manager was notified about the garbage in the parking lot and the issue continues to exist. Court is scheduled for March 28, 2023. I will report back with outcome.

**Other**

On January 14, 2023 the Ramsey Board of Health held the Rabies Clinic and 114 dogs and 9 cats were vaccinated.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Martha Sobanko*

Martha Sobanko, R.E.H.S.