

**RAMSEY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 11, 2021**

1. President’s Announcement:

Jeffery Nemeth called the meeting of the Ramsey Board of Health to order at 8:07 PM. In accordance with requirement of N.J.S. 10:4-6, Mr. Nemeth 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 ON JANUARY 5TH, 2022 AND RIDGEWOOD NEWS ON JANUARY 7TH, 2022. 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:

MEMBERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mrs. Tami Azouri		X
Mrs. Joan Waring	X	
Mr. Jeffery Nemeth	X	
Dr. Albert Tartini	X	
Mr. William Lara	X	
Ms. Heidi Martin	X	
Dr. Angela D’Alessandro	X	
Dr. Carla Souza Iudica	X	
Mrs. Jessica Coronato	X	

IN ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
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	
Pete Scandariato, Borough Attorney	X	
Jillian Beilen, Ambulance Corps	X	
Shauna Lauricella, Ramsey Municipal Alliance		X

The roll was called by Danielle Monaghan. Mr. Nemeth read the president’s announcement for the March meeting. A motion was made by Joan Waring to approve the minutes from the January meeting, seconded by Heidi Martin, and carried by all.

4. Announcements:

Jeff confirmed approval of the board member’s committee appointments and resolutions.

Jeff said that back in January when there was a COVID spike, he emailed the mayor and council, Pete and Al regarding mask mandates. The response was no mask mandates will be put in place unless it's an Executive Order from the governor. Al said they wanted the mayor and council to know the Board of Health's position. Jeff said the spike rose but fell quickly.

5. Codes, Ordinances & Legislation:

Martha attended classes in Atlantic City. She took a class on enforcing the plastic bag ban taking effect on May 4th, 2022. Martha will provide more information at the next meeting. Al thanked Joan for sharing the National Geographic article on plastics in the ocean.

6. Special Matters:

Jeff was hoping Peter would be in attendance to discuss the deer survey proposals because he has not yet received a response. The contacts we have reached out to are following up and asking if Ramsey would like to go forward. Al mentioned how 15 years ago the landscaping in front of his house looked much different than it does today due to the deer. Joan agreed and said everything that is under 7 feet has buds everything else has been eaten down. Al said it is a public health issue because of the accidents they cause and the tickborne diseases and feels it is a travesty that nothing is being done to cull the herd. Joan asked if there has been any more information or understanding on deer serving as a reservoir for the COVID virus or if it was just an observation without consequence? Jeff and Al did not hear anything further on the topic but did think it was interesting. In conclusion, Al said there are too many deer in NJ. Jeff will reach out again prior to the March 23rd council meeting. Joan asked if we know if the answer is negative do we know what our response will be or if the answer is yes go ahead what our response will be? Jeff said we will take one step at a time. Jeff, Joan and Al are hoping for a response to get moving either way and let the companies know.

7. Site Plans:

Martha said there were no site plans in February. Site plans for the new Wawa will be in next month's report.

8. Public Water Supply:

Danielle read the water operations report provided by Mike Skorupa.

9. Public Health:

Jim said that since the last meeting, COVID has again consumed most of his time due to the spike in cases numbers. Jim read his submitted report to the board. He mentioned he submits a weekly report of the case numbers to the mayor and referred to the graph. Al asked Danielle if we get a copy of that report. Jeff said it is in the meeting packet provided. Joan asked what the total case count is so far because there was no update on the website since February 1. Jim responded that his case count comes from the CDRSS system and stated that any at home test results are not taken into consideration. Currently there are approximately 2400. He referred to the case fatality rate chart Danielle compiles and said the denominator is the total cases in Ramsey to date. Al said he did not get that report. Danielle told Al where to find it in the packet. Danielle will ask about updating the website and who is in charge. Jeff said he sees half of the customers in ShopRite still wearing masks. Joan said she's surprised about how many people are still wearing masks. Al referred to scientific magazine and journal articles he has read that state the virus is mutating faster and faster and will either die off or turn into something else. So far, it seems to be the former. It hasn't mutated out of existence, but it has mutated into the virus we have now. That is what the flu did in 1918 and the flu never went away. The coronavirus seems to be following that pattern in the moment with a fast rate of mutation. Joan asked about data on the long-

term cognitive effects people are experiencing following a mild or severe case of COVID. Al said he has read some reports in medical journals from a renal point of view where he is seeing kidney disease in patients 3-4 months after having COVID, mild or severe. Biopsies show inflamed tissue inside of the kidneys. Al discussed that it is similar to a disease cause by mouse droppings.

10. Health Education; Communication; Outreach:

Joan spoke about Program Healthy Bones and thanked Danielle for getting all of the bureaucratic stuff done. In order to participate, permission from their health provider is required. We now have a database to ensure all liability measures and permission forms are up to date for each participant. There are 4 classes scheduled each week. Joan had a shortage of available leaders, so HARP trained 6 or 7 more leaders. Healthy bones program takes place in the community center. The acoustics are still horrible and it is very hard to hear the instructors, but they are told it will be fixed. The classes keep growing and the program is becoming more popular because of the space. Jeff asked how many people are in the classes. Joan said the Tuesday 10 AM class had 24 participants and the 11 AM class had 16. Usually, it is about 15 people per class. Al asked if it was only Ramsey residents. Joan said no. If someone came in and said they have osteoporosis problems she has let them come participate. Some Ramsey Library employees live in Mahwah but are part of the Ramsey community and participate. Recently she has not been allowing new members from out of town. Joan said they are going to install a new entry system in the senior center where you will have to swipe a card and say what program you are going in for. She said it might require them to have a Ramsey address, but she is not sure yet. She asked if Al was terribly offended that they are not only Ramsey residents. Al said yes, because Mahwah does not let anyone from Ramsey to participate in their programs. Joan agreed and added some towns like Wyckoff have no programs offered and Allendale doesn't have many. Al said we seem to be benevolent and that is fine because that's who lives in Ramsey, but he doesn't feel surrounding townships reciprocate. It's a Ramsey programs sponsored by Ramsey committees and it should be Ramsey participants only. They can go back to their town and ask for a program like the one in Ramsey. Joan said she has begun recommending that, but some people have been in the program for 10 years. In the beginning Joan was looking for people to buff up the program. Al said yes, but now Joan has made the program the great success it is. Joan said going forward it will be Ramsey residents only.

11. Inspection Reports:

Martha read her monthly inspection report for January and February. She announced we are switching our Health Department software to GovPilot for licenses, inspections, certificates, payments, complaints, etc. Jeff asked who was building this? It is taking a very long time and was supposed to be working by January but when it is completed it will be much better. Danielle said that we are making some headway and the next part will be setting up inspections via an iPad that will link to the establishment's profile. Joan asked about the summonses Martha issued and what organization the resident was attached to. Martha said he was a resident renting his pool which made it an unlicensed public bathing facility. Al asked if the town was notified because a neighbor complained and if we have any ordinances against renting a house as a social club? Martha said she thinks it's a police matter but not a health ordinance. Al said maybe an ordinance should be created. Joan asked also about other profitable rental platforms such as Airbnb. Martha said she will look into it and let them know and suggest an ordinance to the mayor otherwise. Al thanked her.

12. Abatement Orders:

Martha read her report for January and February.

13. Vital Statistics:

Danielle read the vital statistics report for January and February.

14. Financial Report:

Mr. Nemeth read the end of year budget for 2021. Jeff read the vital statistics financial report and health department financial report for January and February. Jeff reviewed the current abbreviated budget information. Jeff asked what the numbers at the bottom. Danielle said Martha and I have fixed the budget to reflect current fees and incorporated all services and interlocal agreements are accounted for. Jeff said he was happy to see the changes made.

15. Ambulance; Ramsey Municipal Alliance; other organizations:

Jillian gave the Ramsey Ambulance Corps report. In January, they responded to 121 calls in Ramsey. 17 of those calls were COVID related and 27 were mutual aid calls. Of the mutual aid calls, 12 were in Mahwah, 10 were in Allendale, 3 were in Waldwick, 1 in Upper Saddle River, and 1 in Franklin Lakes. In February, they responded to 99 calls in Ramsey. 3 of those calls were COVID related and 16 were mutual aid calls. Of the mutual aid calls, 7 were in Mahwah, 6 were in Allendale, 2 were in Waldwick, and 1 in Upper Saddle River. Jeff asked if they currently have any problems with drivers. Jillian said she does not know of any driver shortage issues but if they do have an issue, they can use someone from Rescue who is trained to drive the ambulance. They are now trying to take on members that will also be drivers instead of exclusively drivers and exclusively EMT's.

Shauna is the new chairperson for the Ramsey Municipal Alliance. Danielle introduced Shauna since she was unable to attend and read her report. She is a psychologist with a private practice in Ramsey and has elementary-aged children. She served as the RMA Grant Coordinator since 2019. The new Grant Coordinator is Charlene Menshikov. Charlene has a background in business and she has elementary-aged children. She has been a member of RMA since 2019. Stigma Free community programming will now be incorporated into RMA, and the school-based Stigma Free initiative will still be overseen by the school district. On Feb 15, RMA co-hosted a film screening of LIKE, a film about social media and its impact on people's lives. The film was well attended and we received positive feedback. RMA worked with Mahwah Municipal Alliance and The Valley Hospital on this event. The Alliance several upcoming events including the Stigma Free Walk on May 7 and the Drug take back event at the Ramsey Farmers Market on June 5, featuring Gizmo Robot. The RMA has ongoing mental wellness outreach lunches, which is a collaboration with Ramer Police Department and Ramsey School District. The program provides outreach visits during lunch between an officer and isolated and/or at-risk youth. This year RMA will be offering a scholarship to a RHS senior who exemplifies the mission of RMA. RMA is exploring the possibility of collaborating with Tami Azouri and HARP on some program offerings in the future. The next RMA meeting will take place 3/28 at 7:30 at Borough Hall.

16. Conferences and Training:

Martha said she went to classes this month which she will put on next month's report.

17. Council Report:

None.

18. Correspondence

None.

19. New Business:

Joan said she sent the Ramsey Journal information and requirements to Jeff and it looks like Sara is in charge this year as part of her council duties. Joan said Jeff and the group need to think of a theme to discuss for the Board of Health Journal. Jeff asked Joan to resend that and she will CC Danielle.

20. Review of Assignments:

21. Public Comment:

None.

22. Adjournment:

The Board moved to adjourn at approximately 9:12 PM. Motion was made by Albert Tartini, seconded by Joan Waring, and carried by all.