

**RAMSEY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> , 2020**

**1. President’s Announcement**

Mr. Nemeth called the meeting of the Ramsey Board of Health to order at 8:03 P.M. In accordance with requirement of N.J.S. 10:4-6, Vice President Jeff 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 AND RIDGEWOOD NEWS ON DECEMBER 27, 2019. NOTICE OF THIS MEETING BEING HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL WAS GIVEN TO THE BERGEN RECORD, POSTED ON THE BOROUGH WEBSITE, AND POSTED ON THE DOORS OF THE BOROUGH HALL.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that pursuant to Section 13 of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the laws of the State of New Jersey, the regular meetings of the Ramsey Board of Health of the Borough of Ramsey for the year 2020 are held on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M. and shall be held in the upstairs Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 33 North Central Avenue, Ramsey, NJ as follows:

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

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
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	
Ms. Sara Poppe	X	
Dr. Carla Souza		X

<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Mr. Jane Woods, Council Liaison	X	
Mr. Sam Yanovich, Health Officer	X	
Mrs. Martha Sobanko, R.E.H.S	X	
Ms. Danielle Monaghan, Board Secretary	X	
Pete Scandanario, Borough Attorney	X	
Chris Hurley, Ambulance Corps	X	

The roll was called by Danielle Monaghan. Motion was made by Joan Waring to approve the minutes from the February meeting and seconded by Al Tartini.

**4. Announcements:**

Jeff Nemeth stated that last week in the Suburban News he read about how the local Boards of Health in nearby towns have been overwhelmed. He wanted to know what we have been dealing with in the office. Martha told him that the first week when the Executive Orders came out and we needed to close down all the non-essential businesses was very busy. We had to let everyone know what the new guidelines and restrictions were. We had many complaints about supermarkets not cleaning self-checkout surfaces as frequently as they should. Martha has been in touch with both supermarkets in Ramsey and that residents might not be seeing it but it is being done. They are trying to keep all customers safe by following protocol and employees are wearing face masks. Now the calls coming in we are just giving educational information such as washing hands and keeping distance. Joan announced that she organized a virtual Healthy Bones class on Zoom. An announcement was made that this is not considered the official healthy bones classes. It was terrific and people loved it. They had 35 participants who joined. This will be held once a week on Tuesdays.

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

All of the Executive Orders by the Governor have been put into effect. Martha is putting a hold on the vaping fees and will revisit the topic one the Public Health Emergency (PHE) has concluded. Her research shows that Ridgewood is charging \$900 and Wayne is charging \$750 for stores to carry and sell vaping products. For now our focus is on the virus. Joan discussed the current situation of the mandatory vaccination legislation. She reported there has been no movement on the bill during this PHE, but COVID-19 has created new discussions about vaccinations that may create new interest in the topic.

**6. Special Matters:  
COVID-19:**

Jeff asked if we have a list of positive patients in Ramsey. Tartini gave his personal experience of being tested. Sam reported that the HARP nurses get all of the results and they do the investigation and contact tracing. He also reported as of two days ago there have been 71 positives cases and 1 confirmed death. Residents include homes, rentals and long term care facilities. Sam was initially reporting to the police department until there was a new directive from the State to give it to the County OEM. In the last few days something happened with the reporting and the latest cases are not updated. The police department also gets notified of cases and it is put into their CAD system to flag addresses so emergency teams know to use the proper PPE if they receive a call at a flagged address. Names and addresses are confidential. Sam will keep up to date if any new directives are issued. An increase in widespread testing will increase the numbers. Statewide 30% has been hospitalized. Contact tracing for positive workers in the school system was only when the schools were still open. We would not be notified now of a worker who lives in another town because the time window is over. Shoprite has been very proactive in reporting employee cases to our Health Officer. Return to work can presume once the person has gone one week without symptoms or 3 days without a fever and not using a fever reducing medicine. Joan was asking about testing. Sam reported that the site at Bergen Community College was for anyone with symptoms and the New Bridge Medical site was for healthcare workers and first responders. Angela said that Valley has a site in Mahwah on MacArthur Blvd. This site is a swap and go testing center that requires a script and appointment. Tartini reported the ICU at Holy Name

Hospital is seeing a lot of difficulty communicating with patient's families. The Valley Hospital has 75% of patients that are COVID-19 positive and 5% at Holy Name. They are making a system to call family. One person in the family is the point of contact to communicate the progress of the patient. The hospitals have been very busy. This week, Dr. Tartini said they have discharged 23 COVID patients from Valley Hospital and finally discharging patients who have been on ventilators for greater than 3 weeks. They keep track of this on an hourly basis. ER admissions at valley were in the 30's and 40's. Admission are now at low 20's activity has leveled off a little bit but it is still a climbing statistic. Jane Woods reported they are playing Homeward Bound at Valley when patients are discharged. Joan asked why the Abbot test is different than other tests and how they are able to get the results quicker. Tartini said there will need to be more studies on testing to gather more information. He stated there are more false negatives than false positives. People test negative and then come in to the hospital 3 days later with symptoms and test positive. Nurses have been so dedicated and have been amazing standing by patients.

**7. Site Plans:**

Martha said that Panera Bread is doing some interior work.

**8. Public Water Supply:**

Report highlights from Mike Skroupa were read by Danielle. The department employees are working in split shifts and driving separate vehicles to keep interaction at a minimum. Water and sewer systems are working fine. The current project for the arsenic filtration system is moving forward. With 80% of residents being home for the past few weeks they have experienced 3 sanitary sewer blockages and reminds everyone to not flush paper towels, disinfecting wipes, rubber gloves, etc. that could cause an issue.

**9. Public Health:**

COVID-19 was discussed during special matters.

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

We are posting new information consistently on the website.

**11. Inspection Reports:**

Mrs. Sobanko read her report to the Board. Martha closed self-serve stations at food establishments and supermarkets on March 13th. Jane asked about salons being able to put color kits delivery or put outside to be picked up. Martha is leaving it up to them but clients cannot go inside. Sara asked about drive by birthday parties. Martha said she doesn't think there are restrictions on that but gatherings are not allowed.

**12. Abatement Orders:**

Mrs. Sobanko read her report to the Board.

**13. Vital Statistics:**

Danielle read her Vital Statistics report.

**14. Financial Report:**

Mr. Nemeth read off what income came through Board of Health Licenses and Vital Statistics.

- 15. Ambulance; Ramsey Municipal Alliance; other organizations:**  
Chris Hurley from the Ambulance Corps gave a report. In March they had 100+ calls and a total of 330 calls for the year. There have been 26 calls in April only 9 days in to the month. Typically they see about a 100 a month. They are following all COVID policy procedures and they have all necessary personal protection equipment needed from the borough and from donations. They are using foggers for the cars and trucks and wipes to disinfect vehicles and surfaces after every call whether it is COVID or not. They are reducing patient contact and continuing virtual training for EMS and responders. Sara reported that the Ramsey Municipal Alliance funding has been redirected to COVID-19 and are dealing with the impact of anything they have paid for in advance. They will wait until the new grant cycle next year. May 1st is mental Health Awareness day. Dr. Murphy is thinking about hosting something virtually on the topic.
- 16. Conferences and Training:**  
Martha was in Atlantic City in the beginning of March for a conference and Danielle attended a webinar on the COVID-19 guidelines for vital statistics. Sam has conference calls every day with the State.
- 17. Council Report:**  
Jane Woods gave her council report stating March 25th there was a teleconference with council to present the budget. Everyone agreed the Mayor has done a great job speaking matter of fact with giving messages to the residents and keeping everyone up to date on information. The Easter Bunny visits around town for 11 hours were a big hit and boosted everyone's spirits. Jane gave thanks to the police department for doing drive by birthdays for the kids in town.
- 18. Correspondence**  
None.
- 19. New Business:**  
Dr. Tartini reported that it is expected to be a bad tick season because winter was mild. Sam said the State isn't reporting on any vector diseases right now.
- 20. Review of Assignments:**  
None.
- 21. Public Comment:**  
None.
- 22. Adjournment:**  
The Board moved to adjourn at approximately 8:59 PM. Motion was made by Dr. Tartini, seconded by Hedi Martin, and carried by all.