

**RAMSEY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD APRIL 8, 2021**

1. President's Announcement

Jeff Nemeth called the meeting of the Ramsey Board of Health to order at 8:07 P.M. In accordance with requirement of N.J.S. 10:4-6, 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 JANUARY 8TH, 2021. NOTICE OF THIS MEETING BEING HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL WAS GIVEN TO THE BERGEN RECORD, POSTED ON THE BROUGH 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 2021 are held on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M. and shall be held via teleconference until further notice.

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	
Ms. Sara Poppe	X	
Dr. Carla Souza Iudica	X	

IN ATTENDANCE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Councilwoman Judy Cusick	X	
Mr. Sam Yanovich, Health Officer	X	
Mrs. Martha Sobanko, R.E.H.S.	X	
Ms. Danielle Monaghan, Board Secretary	X	
Pete Scandariato, Borough Attorney	X	
Jillian Beilan, Ambulance Corps	X	

The roll was called by Danielle Monaghan. Motion was made by Jeff Nemeth to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2021 meeting as corrected and seconded by William Lara.

4. **Announcements:**

Jeff reminded the board members that this is an open forum and asked to please announce yourself before speaking and mute yourself when done.

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

Joan stated there was nothing to report. Jeff said that we will revisit this later in the meeting when we get to marijuana and Danielle stated that this was under special matters. Nothing else at this time.

6. **Special Matters:**

Jeff saw an article in the Pascack Newspaper in which Mayor Dillon was quoted in stating that Ramsey does not plan to have any dispensaries. Jeff also stated that our stance for the Board of Health has remained the same. Martha sent a sample ordinance from the Township of Wayne to look over, as mentioned by Jeff. It was asked that Judy goes over any information she may have from the Mayor and Council on this topic. Judy informed the Board that the topic is being tabled for now. The Mayor and Council are receiving information via email from our residents and more research and data are being collected at this time. Jeff asked if it was experts that were collecting this data. Judy said they are asking the community, but she was unsure of the details. Jeff reminded all that the Board of Health is against any selling, dispensing and manufacturing of marijuana. Al Tartini agreed and stated that just because it's been legalized it still is a psychoactive drug which leads to substance abuse. Al also stated that we have D.A.R.E. and substance abuse programs in town and if we allow marijuana into the Borough, we might as well get rid of those programs. Judy asked for Al to back up comments with data because the Mayor and Council need written correspondence that is data driven not opinion driven. Al stated that his data is backed by medical data. Pediatric data shows psychosis is occurring more as there is more frequent use of marijuana. Jeff asked Judy to remind Mayor and Council that our Board is opposed. Judy encouraged the Board to write a written correspondence. Joan Waring stated that we had already prepared a document and it was presented to the Mayor. Judy mentioned this changed now that there was a vote and 2/3 of the residents voted for legalizing marijuana. The Mayor and Council is looking at surrounding towns and what they are doing. Joan stated that as the Board of Health we are approaching this from a health stand point not what other communities are doing. Al reminded us that the Borough of Ramsey started the ban on cigarette smoking and then the rest of the state followed suit. Peter Scandariato ended by stating that the Board should provide the need written documentation as a vast majority of Ramsey voted in favor of the legalization. The members will create a position statement.

7. **Site Plans:**

No site plans at this time.

8. **Public Water Supply:**

Danielle reminded the Board that the fire hydrant flushing program has begun and other operations remain the same.

9. **Public Health:**

Sam reported that there are 1,045 positive cases in Ramsey to date as of April 8, 2021. Cumulative state wide numbers are still considered high with a 12% positivity rate and hospitalizations and cases are on the rise. The UK variant is the most predominant one nation and state wide so no one knows how this is going to affect the spring surge. Study shows that vaccines and prior COVID-19 infections do protect against the variants. Vaccine supply is 4,000,000 vaccinations per day due to J&J. Leonia clinic opened to Ramsey residents and will be held on Saturday 4/10 and Monday 4/12. They have a supply of 1,500 doses. The vaccine's effectiveness is about 90% in the real-world testing as opposed to clinical trials. On

April 19, 2021 the state is opening vaccination eligibility to all adults 16 and older. The vaccine hesitancy as improved. Al added that at Valley there has been a dramatic increase in hospitalizations. For every 2-3 patients discharged, 5-6 are being admitted, more people are on ventilators and tend to be much younger. He believes this is mostly unvaccinated individuals with variants of the virus. Currently our country has the highest numbers right now and Brazil is second. Al also applauded the "Angels" from Ramsey for helping residents set up their appointments to get vaccinated. Jeff mentioned that the quarantine requirements have changed for vaccinated individuals. When Joan asked who is getting sick Jeff responded most cases in younger individuals have been linked to sports and after school activities. Joan asked how sick are they becoming and Al responded that not that sick but they go home and infect their family members. Variants are more contagious and are replicating every 15 days. Good news is that it may mutate itself out, bad news is that its more contagious and fear is vaccines now may not be effective come June/July and boosters may be needed. Al also added that the vaccine is great and its our only protection right now. Judy stated that because spring break is coming up and with people traveling, we need to be aware of this as the age for vaccine eligibility is lowering to 16 and older the week of our spring break.

10. Health Education; Communication; Outreach:

None at this time.

11. Inspection Reports:

Martha read her inspection report for the month of March.

12. Abatement Orders:

Martha read her abatement report for the month of March.

13. Vital Statistics:

Danielle read her Vital Statistics report for the month of March.

14. Financial Report:

Mr. Nemeth read off what income came through for Board of Health licenses, Vital Statistics and went over our 2021 budget.

15. Ambulance; Ramsey Municipal Alliance; other organizations:

Sara reported the Lindsey Meyer Teen Institute has opportunities for high school students. The program will include a couple of sessions for Ramsey High School and Don Bosco and will be open to St. Paul's to ensure all students in Ramsey are invited. They are capped at 25-30 students per session. Mental Health Lunches program with the Ramsey Police Department has begun for kids struggling with mental health issues, COVID-19, depression and more. The Alliance is also working on a marijuana presentation and receiving a lot of changing information from the Bergen County Prevention Coalition. Dr. Murphy stated he is comfortable to sit on a panel at this time. The Alliance is also working on their website to get information out there about substance abuse and mental health. They are setting up a fundraiser because the budget was cut and trying to find products to resell with Alliance logo to make up some of that money. There is a plan hold a mock car crash at Don Bosco as Ramsey High School was unable to due to social distancing but there are no details at this time.

Jillian reported that in the month of March there were 74 calls and 8 of those were COVID-19 related.

16. **Conferences and Training:**
None.
17. **Council Report:**
Judy reported that there is a 0% municipal tax rate increase for residents and it meets the objective of adopting a prudent and responsible budget to provide high level of service to our tax payers. This is the 11th year that municipal tax increase is below 2%. The 2021 budget continues to reduce our municipal debt while addressing necessary infrastructures.
18. **Correspondence:**
Danielle mentioned that she submitted our application to join the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association and membership cards will be mailed to all the members. Martha reminded everyone that Ramsey's next COVID-19 testing will be held on April 20, 2021 at the train station.
19. **New Business:**
Al stated that even though COVID-19 is our main focus these days that we are still in tick season. He reminded everyone to "Keep your grass short!"
20. **Review of Assignments:**
Joan stated that walking group is growing and healthy bones continues to be a big hit on Zoom. The Senior Center is still not open and they are waiting on their final certificate of occupancy. Al asked if we will meet in person if all of us are vaccinated and Jeff responded that at this time we will continue having teleconference meetings until we hear further instruction.
21. **Public Comment:**
No public comments.
22. **Adjournment:**
The Board moved to adjourn at approximately 9:04 P.M. Motion was made by Dr. Tartini, seconded by Joan Waring, and carried by all.

PUBLIC HEALTH - APRIL 2021 REHS Report	April 2021	Year to Date
A.) Communicable Disease		-----
1.) Rabies Control		
a.) Dogs Quarantined	0	0
b.) Cats Quarantined	1	1
c.) Animals Vaccinated	0	145 (dogs) 27 (cats)
d.) Kennel, Pet Shop Inspections	0	0
e.) Examination by NJSDH	0	0
f.) Animals placed under 90-day quarantine	0	0
2.) Psittacine Bird Record Investigation	0	0
3.) Other communicable diseases		
B.) Adult Health Services		
1.) Influenza Program	0	0
2.) Adult Health Clinics	0	0
C.) Child Health Service Report		
1.) Number of Children	0	0
INSPECTION REPORTS		Year to Date
A.) Restaurants, Food Stores & Others	-----	-----
1.) Inspections	-----	-----
a. Satisfactory	21	85
b. Conditional	0	1
c. Unsatisfactory	0	0
d. Pre-Operational	0	3
e. Plan Review	1	1
2.) Re-Inspections	-----	-----
a. Satisfactory	1	2
b. Conditional	0	0
c. Unsatisfactory	0	0
3.) Swimming Pools	-----	-----
a. Satisfactory	0	0
b. Conditional	0	0
c. Unsatisfactory	0	0
4.) Tanning Facilities	-----	-----
a. Satisfactory	0	0
b. Conditional	0	0
c. Unsatisfactory	0	0
5.) Youth Camp Inspection	0	0
6.) Salons	-----	-----
a) Satisfactory	1	1
b) Conditional	0	0

c) Unsatisfactory	0	0
B.) Environmental Health	Complaints/Investigations	Year to Date
1. Air Pollution	0	0
2. Animals/Birds	0	0
3. Bathing Facilities	0	0
4. Emergencies	0	0
5. Food Establishments	0	1
6. Housing	1	1
7. Hazardous Spills	0	0
8. Insects	1	2
9. Milk Products	0	0
10. Nuisances	2	3
11. Occupational Health	0	0
12. Potable Water	0	0
13. Poison Ivy, Ragweed	0	0
14. Rodents	0	0
15. Solid Waste	0	0
16. Stream Pollution	0	0

Borough of Ramsey
Registered Environmental Health Specialist Report
April 2021

Food Establishment Inspections/Prepackaged Stores:

Satisfactory

Ramsey Chrysler Service Center Cafeteria (Spring Street)
Maguro Sushi (Spot Check)
Ramsey Baseball Snack Stand
Extended Stay America
Greek City Restaurant
Houlihan's
IHOP
La Gondola
Ramsey Golf & Country Club
Ramsey Taproom & Grill
Brother's Smokehouse BBQ
Uncle Guiseppe's Super Market
Tawara
Tawara Mart
L'Arte Della Pasticceria
New York Pizza (Spot Check – few things needed to be fixed by new owner)
Jersey Mike's
Majestic Diner
Old Navy
Sal's Pizza (Spot Check)
TJ Maxx

Hair & Nail Salons Inspections:

Satisfactory

Dog & Cat Bites

18 Circle End Drive

1 – cat scratched a resident (resident was treated with rabies vaccine)

Complaints

Mold – Eastwick College

At the time of re-inspection I was advised that they are getting quotes to fix the roof. In the meantime, they will continue to change the ceiling times and keep the area clean and dry. Abated until further notice.