

TOWN OF BOONTON BOARD OF HEALTH
100 WASHINGTON STREET
BOONTON, NEW JERSEY 07005

MINUTES
January 17th, 2023 at 7:30pm

CALL TO ORDER:

The Board of Health Secretary called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

FLAG SALUTE:

Due to the fact that the Council Chambers were simultaneously occupied, the meeting was held in the upstairs Conference Room at Town Hall. There being no American flag present, the Flag Salute was not said.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The Board of Health Secretary read the following statement: Proper notice of this meeting was given to the Citizen of Morris County, the Daily Record, and posted on the bulletin board in Town Hall. NOTICE: The New Robert's Rules of Order are in effect to conduct business.

ROLL CALL:

Board of Health Secretary conducted roll call.

Those present: William Wallace, Dr. Patrick DeMare, Grace Ryerson, Cathy Riccobono, Kelli Shiels, BOH Secretary Charlene Oselador, Health Official Peter Tabbot

Those absent: Juli Harpell-Elam, Town Council Liaison Joe Bock

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Board of Health Secretary called for nominations for the office of Board of Health President.

Mr. Wallace nominated Dr. DeMare. All were in favour and Dr. DeMare was elected Board of Health President for 2023.

The Board of Health Secretary called for nominations for the office of Board of Health Vice President.

Ms. Ryerson nominated Mr. Wallace. All were in favour and Mr. Wallace was elected Vice President of the Board of Health for 2023.

ANNUAL RESOLUTION & APPOINTMENTS:

Ms. Riccobono moved to accept the Annual Resolution and Appointments. Ms. Ryerson seconded. All were in favour and the motion passed.

All Board of Health Members present signed the Oath of Service to be recorded by the Board of Health Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

For the meeting of September 20th, 2022

Mr. Wallace made a motion to approve meeting minutes for September 20th. Ms. Ryerson seconded. All were in favour and the motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

Health Officer's Report for September, October, November, and December 2022

Ms. Shiels asked about the Avalon Bay pool.

Ms. Ryerson and Mr. Tabbot explained the progress and status of the pool inspections.

Dr. DeMare asked Mr. Tabbot to discuss the Health Officer's reports.

Mr. Tabbot discussed important points and highlights of the previous months' reports, including food establishment inspections and resident complaints. He also discussed increasing Covid numbers since the holidays. He touched on the role of grant-funded employees in the Rockaway Health Department.

Ms. Shiels asked if the grant would be affected by the end of the shared services contract.

Mr. Tabbot said that the new provider, once selected, would provide those services to Boonton.

Ms. Ryerson asked why there were no longer weekly Covid reports.

Ms. Shiels and Mr. Tabbot spoke about the current inaccurate state of testing and data now that self-testing is more widespread.

Mr. Tabbot mentioned that Jacqueline Bourdony now works for NJ Transit and that Zerlina MacDonald is the new inspector.

Ms. Ryerson asked about an inspection of groundwater remediation of Division Street.

Mr. Wallace explained that it used to be the site of a dry cleaning business and that the issue has been going on for years.

Ms. Ryerson asked about numbers in the nursing report that were not adding up. It turned out to be a typo.

Mr. Tabbot discussed the December food inspections and water sampling visits. There were only two complaints.

Mr. Wallace moved to accept the Health Officer's Report. Ms. Ryerson seconded. All were in favour and the motion passed.

Vital Statistics Report for September, October, November, and December 2022

Mr. Wallace moved to accept the Vital Statistics Reports. Ms. Ryerson seconded. All were in favour and the motion passed.

Animal Control Report for September, October, November, and December 2022

Mr. Wallace asked if the names and phone numbers of residents should be redacted.

Mr. Tabbot agreed they should be redacted because these reports are included in the agenda as a public document. He offered to discuss this matter with the Animal Control Officer.

Ms. Ryerson mentioned that the Animal Control Officer still does not have an official vehicle that is compliant with State regulations and standards.

Mr. Wallace explained that the Town has not provided an official vehicle and that the Animal Control Officer must use his own vehicle, which does not meet Animal Control standards.

Mr. Tabbot discussed the history of the issue and the municipal budget process.

Mr. Wallace asked the Board of Health Secretary to ask the Town Administrator whether such a vehicle would be included in the 2023 municipal budget.

Ms. Riccobono asked about how the vehicle was insured and the Animal Control Officer's method of getting animals into the vehicle.

Mr. Wallace asked Ms. Oselador to follow up with the ACO regarding information about his vehicle.

Mr. Wallace and Mr. Tabbot advised that the ACO is a private contractor and as such, provides his own insurance.

Ms. Shiels asked about the illegal pig mentioned in the October Animal Control Report and what would be done about it.

Ms. Oselador, Mr. Tabbot, and Mr. Wallace advised that its status as an emotional support animal is not recognized.

Mr. Wallace asked Ms. Oselador to follow up with the ACO on the current status of the matter.

Ms. Ryerson, Mr. Tabbot, and Ms. Shiels discussed handing out informative packets.

Mr. Wallace moved to accept the Animal Control Reports. Ms. Riccobono seconded. All were in favour and the motion passed.

Due to the fact that there was a concurrent meeting of the Town Council, Liaison Joe Bock was not present to give a report from the Town Council.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Oselador, Ms. Ryerson, and Ms. Shiels discussed the new appointments to the Board, one of which would be on the meeting agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Wallace discussed process and status of searching for new health department services.

Mr. Tabbot said he would not expect what is in the RFP and that it should instead be based on the current agreement with Rockaway.

Mr. Wallace said that it did closely resemble that agreement before the Town changed it.

Ms. Oselador discussed the RFP drafting and editing process, including the usage of standard boilerplate language.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Ryerson asked what the Town would do in the interim with no Health Department.

Mr. Wallace advised that the Administrator would have to decide.

Mr. Tabbot advised that, by statute, the Town can go up to six months without a Health Officer.

Mr. Wallace said he is working with the Administrator to get a replacement as quickly as possible.

Ms. Ryerson asked if the Administrator could come to a Board of Health meeting to discuss the matter.

Ms. Shiels asked if the Town had the ability to dissolve the Board of Health.

Mr. Wallace advised that they could, but that the Town Council would then have to take on the role of the Board of Health.

DISCUSSION:

None.

INVITATION TO CITIZENS TO DISCUSS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

No members of the public were present.

INVITATION TO CITIZENS TO DISCUSS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No members of the public were present.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business was before the Board. Therefore, Ms. Shiels moved and Ms. Ryerson seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favour and the motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene M. Oselador
Secretary to the Board