

**MEETING OF MONTVALE BOARD OF HEALTH
VIA ZOOM
12 MERCEDES DRIVE
MONTVALE, NJ 07645
Monday, January 3, 2022**

President Cohen called the meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:45pm. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided to *The Record* informing the public of the time and place, according to the Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975). The Sunshine Law is in effect. Meeting Open to the Public.

Attendance

Members: J. Cohen, President (P), G. Clark (P) M. Danna, Vice- President (P), L. Hopper (P), J. Jacobson (P) J. Landzberg (P), & P. Lennon (P)

Non- Members: Council Liaison Cudequest (P), & Secretary J. Russo (P)

Contracted Professionals:

G.Behre, Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission Health Officer (A)

J. Wendolowski, Hackensack Meridian Health Public Health Nurse (A)

Meeting information was posted on the website & Sunshine Law is in effect. Meeting open to the public. Several residents from the public were in attendance.

President Cohen welcomed Council Liaison Theresa Cudequest. President Cohen thanked the members for their support and reminded them that their attendance at the meetings is important. Meeting schedule is on the Borough website and reminders are emailed.

President Cohen asked for a moment of silence in memory of Councilwoman Rose Curry. The Board discussed alternative options to show their respect to Rose Curry. Members agreed to honor the Curry's family request and, if interested, to make a monetary donation to Tri Boro Ambulance or Tri Boro Food Pantry. Members can forward their donations to J. Russo or send their donation directly to the charities.

M. Danna suggested writing a resolution honoring Rose Curry to be read at public Mayor & Council meeting. President Cohen asked M. Danna to draft a few sentences. M. Danna said she will email a draft for the members' input. Once draft is finalized it will be forwarded to Mayor and sent to Mr. Curry.

President Cohen asked for a motion to approve the December minutes. J. Jacobson made a motion to approve the minutes & M. Danna seconded it. The minutes were approved on a roll call vote. The minutes will be posted on Borough website.

President Cohen updated the members regarding the activity since the last meeting. NW Bergen Regional Health contract is for two years with a 1.5% increase each year. The contract will be signed this week. President Cohen received a contract from HARP, which is within the 2% cap. The contract was reviewed and will be signed this week. President Cohen asked for minor technical correction. The monetary amount will remain unchanged. J. Russo will have the contract. Hillsdale Child Health Conference contract for \$250 a year was signed and returned to Hillsdale Board of Health. This year Montvale sent one child to the clinic in December. Fair Game Goose control contract expires in March, they were contacted to submit their contract as soon as possible.

J.Wendolowski & J. Landzberg discussed writing an article regarding the criteria for the monoclonal antibodies in fight against Covid. The article would be for the January newsletter, if received prior to the deadline. An article was not received.

J. Cohen read the December monthly NWB report with no discussion forthcoming.

The Mayor remains in contact with the public health nurse regarding number of COVID cases and posts information to residents. Mayor contacted President Cohen, asking for guidelines and procedures

regarding the mandating of masks, vaccinations and status of borough being open to public. A few Bergen County municipalities are currently working remote and closed to the public.

President Cohen polled each member to list possible actions regarding the safety of the Borough employees and the public during COVID. The recommendations are as follows:

- Maintain current protocol at the Borough.
- Close the Borough for a designated time period, perhaps 1 to 2 weeks.
- Schedule limited staffing
- Incoming phone calls be forwarded to employees at their home. Work remote. Current phone system at the Borough is not equipped for this feature.
- Borough employees are required proof of full vaccination including booster per CDC's requirement. No medical exemption should be accepted
- Testing protocol for employees on predetermined schedule
- Sanitize offices after each positive Covid case.
- Selective quarantine, option to work from home after exposure

A motion to accept the above recommendations came from J. Landzberg. Seconded by Monica Danna. All in favor.

President Cohen asked each member for feedback. Some of the recommendations/comments were that individuals need to take responsibility and follow CDC guidelines, institute testing protocol, temperature taken at entrance, hand sanitizer or washing enforced, temporarily closing during the recent rise as result of holiday traveling and gatherings. Unanimously the member believe that vaccinations/boosters are the key. It was stressed that medical exemption would require that employee not be allowed in the work environment. Proper masks wearing, preferable N95 or double mask. President Cohen stated that, after the meeting, she will contact the Mayor regarding the Board's recommendations.

J. Landzberg requested that the Mayor, as Republican public official, should continue to publicly support vaccination and mask requirements. It was suggested, since future outbreaks may be reoccurring, an investment in a more advanced phone system may be a wise investment by the Borough. Asked if the library would follow the same requirements. President Cohen said they have their own board; however, it would be determined by Mayor & Council. The new policy, once determined would govern the senior/community center.

A resident is requesting installing bee hives on property. After discussion it was determined with a motion by J. Jacobson and a second by Patricia Lennon that further information will be requested for future discussion by the Board

Tyco Animal Report – No report.

NW Bergen Reg. Health Commission Activity Reports J.Cohen read t report. All members were provided with copies. Open discussion regarding items.

Registrar & Vital Static Report- M.Danna read the December report.

Child Health Conference Report- One child attended the Hillsdale Health Clinic. Cost is \$35 per child.

Council Liaison Report- T.Cudequest reporting on the M&C reorganization meeting & that the budget is under review. T. Cudequest asked if anyone was interested in participating in the Mayor's Challenge, Montvale residents to pledge to lose 1,000 pounds together thru community classes & health education.

Adjournment

Meeting closed to the public. A motion to adjourn at 8:39pm was made by J. Jacobson, second by J. Landzberg. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Reminder if you are unable to attend, please email Joyce Cohen & Janet Russo.

Next meeting is on MONDAY, MARCH 7 AT 7:45PM.
Please check your emails or website for updates regarding meeting status.