

MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO. 1

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
(Open Session: 34 min, 35sec.)

CALL TO ORDER:

President Giles called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He then led the Regional Board of Health in the salute to the flag. President Giles next read the "Open Public Meeting Act Statement".

ROLL CALL (Remote except for President)

Fair Haven – Theresa Casagrande, Little Silver – Dr. Tim Sullivan, Ocean Twp. – Vinnie Buttiglieri, Rumson – Therese Wollman, Sea Bright – Dr. Meg Fisher, Sea Girt – Diane Anthony, Shrewsbury Borough – Paul Roman, Spring Lake – Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake Heights – Dr. Len Giles (attending in person) , West Long Branch – Stephanie Dollinger

Upon completion of the roll call, the Secretary reported that 10 members were present.

ABSENT:

Boro of Allenhurst, Boro of Brielle, Boro of Deal, Boro of Interlaken, Boro of Little Silver, Village of Loch Arbour, Township of Middletown, Boro of Monmouth Beach, Boro of Red Bank, Boro of Tinton Falls

OTHERS PRESENT:

David A. Henry, Health Officer (attending in person), Bruce Padula, Esq., (remote), Heather Frketich, Commission Secretary/Office Coordinator (attending in person)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Public Comment Period Extended to 6:25 pm, due to meeting start time
No Public Present Also: (Notification to phone in posted on Agenda)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

***March 24, 2020 Regular Meeting**

OPEN SESSION:

Vinnie Buttiglieri motioned to approve the Open Session Minutes of March 24, 2020, seconded by Mary Anne Donahue.

VOTE: Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

CLOSED SESSION:

Vice-President Roman motioned to approve the February 25, 2020 Closed Session Minutes, seconded by Theresa Casagrande.

VOTE: Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CLOSED SESSION:

Alternate Commissioner Fisher motioned to enter into Closed Session at 6: 18 pm, seconded by Commissioner Wollman for the purpose of Contract discussion.

Vice-President Roman motioned to exit Closed Session at 6:30 pm, seconded by Commissioner Buttiglieri.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

The April Health Officer's Report, March 2020 Conferences & Meetings & Professional Trainings, the March 2020 CDRSS Report, the PHN Monthly Report were previously mailed/e-mailed.

The PHN Report continues to illustrate detail of investigative efforts.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT (continued)

COVID-19:

Some Events/Tools:

Weekly Health Officer MCRHC Teleconferences with Mayors/Administrators/Municipal Staffs
MCRHC Public Health Alerts

Website Resource: [COVID19.nj.gov](https://www.nj.gov/health/covid19/)

The Health Officer currently reports 1,000 active cases being handled by staff – REHS assisting with workload – no backlog at this moment
Work continues 7 days a week, with 5 member CDRSS team, 5 member REHS staff, 2 school nurses from MRC, 2 grad students and Health Officer

The surge of 100 cases came in on Saturday have been worked through.

Public Health = Economic Health were the words of Governor Murphy and has compiled the 6 principles to the road back

A concern to head the list is “contact tracing” needed to reopen the state, funds to support it and the technology to meet the challenge, especially with the plan to greatly increase testing. The state is looking at 1400 – 7000 contract tracers. The Health Officer is looking at a couple of different plans including hiring per diems for this to happen at MCRHC and estimates 1.7 hours to perform many contract tracing cases, and the need to look 14 days + 3 days back to establish possible contacts.

Stephanie Dollinger brings up the very real issue for the public that such technology has and will present – questioned as infringement of personal liberties. Not all members of the public sure of their obligations to comply. Dr. Meg Fisher assisted with a response explaining this is not a legal issue, it is essential for disease control.

Theresa Casagrande asked how we stand with the staff overtime budget. The Health Officer responded that we are burning through the CD Grant overtime budget and have been allowed by the NJDOH to utilize the remainder of the lead grant funding for COVID-19. Costs have been lowered with the use of some volunteers. As facilities begin reopening the REHS staff will reposition back to their wide range of inspection and other duties.

It is anticipated that all NJ LHDs will receive additional monies. It has been determined that monies from the CDC go to the state and then to the NJ Health Officers’ Association for further distribution to LHD’s. It was suggested that a proposed plan to detailing how to carry out the contract tracing effort at MCRHC be prepared including time needed to train per diems as State or Federal funds would be seen as forthcoming.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT (continued)

Word was distributed of Ray English's passing, the former MCRHC HO for 1972 – 1976 and Vice-President Roman contributed a few words of remembrance.

The Health Officer has been invited to participate in all LTC calls with OEM and County Health Department (the main contact for PPE supplies to these facilities). MCRHC is using all guidelines to work with LTC on a daily basis on behalf of their most vulnerable population. 13 of these facilities currently have reported COVID outbreaks. The LTCs must also report to the NJDOH daily. Currently stabilized as far as new cases

Diane Anthony motioned to approve the Health Officer's Report, seconded by Dr. Fisher.

VOTE: Unanimous

CFO REPORT:

No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Statement of Accounts for period ending March 31, 2020 was previously emailed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recent meeting with CFO or Committee

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

No Report

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Following receipt of the attorney's memo of contract vs. member town findings - revisions and editing may continue as time permits by the Officers and HR Chair.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

No Report

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

No Report

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mary Anne Donahue motioned to approve the Consent Agenda (2 resolutions), seconded by Theresa Casagrande.

RESOLUTION 2020-31

Approval to pay March 2020 Bills (Memorialization) in the amount of \$135,114.59.

RESOLUTION 2020-32

Approval to pay April 2020 Bills in the amount of \$263,570.19

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Fair Haven	Yes	Shrewsbury Boro	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Rumson	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Sea Bright	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes
Sea Girt	Yes		

VOTE: 9 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain
Motion Carries.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Website Trial of Meeting Document Access

President Giles announces that the Commission Secretary will use the Share file method going forward to deliver meeting documents, reminding all that they will still receive emails with any other detail she is requested by the President or Health Officer to forward.

President Giles, Commissioner Therese Wollman and Mary Anne Donahue have participated in this trial over the last couple of months. They received meeting documents from Heather by use of the Share file set up by City Connections, our website provider. They all reported it to be easy to navigate and a way to align documents in one place.

He has been in attendance at all weekly COVID-19 teleconferences with local officials given by the Health Officer and perceives they are viewed as very helpful. He notes that calls to the MCRHC from the public have decreased, and that information from daily State/Governor reporting remains fluid and staff is keeping up with the changes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

Vice-President Roman requested for anyone who might be interviewed by the media, please be specific as to who we are. Monmouth County Regional Health Commission to distinguish us from the County.

The April 14th article published in the Asbury Park Press was a great promotion of the MCRHC operation.

He recommended that all Commissioners read and become familiarized with Governor Murphy's 6 principles as prerequisites (what will happen and in what order) to re-opening the state in the months to come.

He named The Central Jersey Family Health Consortium website as a good reference location for a great number of Monmouth County resources.

He described former HO Ray English, mentioned previously in the Health Officer's Report, as an icon who helped lay the foundations of public health by bringing attention to it.

ORDINANCES:

No Pending Readings, Introductions or Adoptions

OLD BUSINESS:

ACCREDITATION: Due to the current extenuating public health circumstances, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has granted an extension of 90 days to all going through the process. This brings the new MCRHC deadline into November 2020.

CONTRACT TOWN STATUS: Our Attorney has forwarded a memo of explanation to President Giles following a review of MCRHC town status in alignment with state rulings. In summary, all MCRHC towns have equal legal status. They receive the same service and are all counted toward our monthly quorum. Other efforts to make monthly Commission meeting attendance easier will be reviewed by the President and Health Officer.

The State now categorize/designate governmental units such as the MCRHC as a "**REGIONAL SERVICE AGENCY**" under Public Law (P.L. 2019C.433) The MCRHC Attorney's review of the above reveals this mainly addresses the renaming joint meetings – no changes in operation or governance

NEW BUSINESS:

Financial Disclosure Filing – The April 30, 2020 deadline has been extended to July 31, 2020. Only six of our members are outstanding.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm on a motion by Vinnie Buttiglieri, seconded by Theresa Casagrande.

VOTE: Unanimous

Next Regular Meeting of the MCRHC No.1 Commission will be held on Tuesday, MAY 26, 2020 at (6:00 P.M) at the Regional's headquarters located at American Red Cross building 1540 West Park Avenue – Suite # 1, Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather L. Frketich

Heather L. Frketich
COMMISSION SECRETARY

Reviewed by

David A. Henry

David A. Henry
HEALTH OFFICER