

MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO. 1

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 26, 2020
(Open Session: 28 min.12 sec.)

CALL TO ORDER:

President Giles called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.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)

Deal – Stephen Carasia, Fair Haven – Theresa Casagrande, Ocean Twp. – Vinnie Buttiglieri, Rumson – Therese Wollman, Sea Bright – Dr. Meg Fisher, Sea Girt – Diane Anthony (arrived 11:50 am), 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 9 members were present.

ABSENT:

Boro of Allenhurst, Boro of Brielle, Boro of Interlaken, Boro of Little Silver, Village of Loch Arbour, Township of Middletown, Boro of Monmouth Beach, Boro of Red Bank, Boro of Shrewsbury, 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 11:50 am, due to meeting start time
No Public Present Also: (Notification to phone in posted on Agenda)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

***April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting**

OPEN SESSION:

Mary Anne Donahue motioned to approve the Open Session Minutes of April 28, 2020, seconded by Stephanie Dollinger.

MINUTES (continued)

VOTE: Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

CLOSED SESSION:

Theresa Casagrande motioned to approve the April 28, 2020 Closed Session Minutes, seconded by Dr. Fisher.

VOTE: Unanimous by those who were in attendance.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CLOSED SESSION:

None

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

The April 2020 Conferences & Meetings & Professional Trainings, the March April CDRSS Report, the PHN Monthly Report and the 1st Quarter Vital Statistics were previously mailed/e-mailed.

A Temple University student, Ananda Ramseur, began a Public Health internship at MCRHC in May.

COVID-19:

Weekly Health Officer MCRHC Teleconferences with Mayors/Administrators/Municipal Staffs and Community members continue.

The Health Officer reports:

Caseload is down, but a slight surge due to asymptomatic testing is expected

1800 cases handled during the month of April

LTCs required to test residents/staff every 3-7 days

Planned contact tracing involving 1,000 – 5,000 state hires in place by mid-late June. Software package to be utilized (COMPARE – pilot testing in progress). In the meantime staff members are performing isolation and quarantine follow-ups.

The Health Officer requested assistance in the form of a retired HO(offered by the State) to manage his workload. Waiting response.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT (continued)

NJ has had the largest number of positive cases behind NY State, but we are now moving in the right direction.

Inquiries from the Commissioners included “the purpose of asymptomatic testing” HO response: to be an indicator of what the disease spread is like and if we need to work differently to contain. Dr. Fisher added and to show the percentage of positives is dropping.

Vinnie Buttiglieri motioned to approve the Health Officer’s Report, seconded by Stephanie Dollinger.

VOTE: Unanimous

Theresa Casagrande asked how we stand with the staff overtime budget incurred from COVID-19. What is the level of comp time? If grant funding is used, it does not make sense for staff to take overtime as “comp”. The Health Officer responded “we are in fairly good shape.” He continued by saying that overtime for pay or comp is an employee choice per Union agreement. The CFO’s input should be sought. Attorney Padula was asked to weigh in. He agreed with Commissioner Casagrande, and was of the belief that either an informal or formal sidebar agreement might be amenable to the Union.

The Health Officer was asked to look into this situation.

The MCRHC Bookkeeper is collecting data for possible FEMA reimbursement. Ms. Casagrande also referred to monies the County is receiving from the Federal Government. Is MCRHC entitled to part of those funds? She suggested the Health Officer contact their Administrator, Ms. O’Conner.

As mentioned to the Commission at prior meetings, The REHS staff has been working on Communicable disease communication with Town Officials, case investigation calls and case closeout. As facilities begin reopening the REHS staff will reposition back to their wide range of inspection and other duties.

CFO REPORT:

No Report

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Statement of Accounts for period ending April 30, 2020 was previously emailed.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No recent meeting with CFO or Committee

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Approved Minutes July 28, 2020

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 (1 resolution), seconded by Theresa Casagrande.

RESOLUTION 2020-35

Approval to pay May 2020 Bills in the amount of \$158,115.83.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

No Report

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. As the department workload is not expected to curtail through predicted future waves through to the first quarter of next year, Theresa Casagrande suggested that the Health Officer not delay in requesting an additional extension.

NEW BUSINESS:

NJACCHO COVID -19 FUNDING: It is anticipated that all NJ LHDs will receive additional monies to support COVID-19 work. The CDC will send funds to the state who will in turn direct them to the NJ Health Officers' Association for further distribution to the LHD's. The funds are to cover the period of 5/1/20 -6/30/21. Pending award letter receipt, a roll call vote is deferred to June.

This is part of \$5 million dollars to be made available to NJ LHDs.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING – The April 30, 2020 deadline has been extended to July 31, 2020. A handful of our members have not filed.

President Giles questioned where COVID-19 vaccine would be stored once available. It is not certain whether it would be stored at MCRHC or any local health department. He did feel there should be a conversation about refrigerator/building security with the staff and at the next Board meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The Health Officer was asked if pools will open soon. He advised Conference calls with the State and review of draft protocol have occurred, however no timeframe has yet been handed down.

After a very brief discussion, President Giles determined the next Regular Meeting will be held remotely at 6:00 pm on June 23, 2020.

Vice-President Roman provided The Health Officer with NJLM documents he would like to distribute to Commission members. They will be forwarded in a weekly email.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm on a motion by Dr. Fisher, seconded by Theresa Casagrande.

VOTE: Unanimous

Next Regular Meeting of the MCRHC No.1 Commission will be held on Tuesday, JUNE 23, 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