



MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION NO. 1  
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
(Open Session: 1:23:43)

CALL TO ORDER:

President Giles called the meeting to order at 11:33 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

Boro of Brielle – Denise Murphy, Fair Haven – Theresa Casagrande, Little Silver – Dr. Tim Sullivan, Ocean Twp. – Vinnie Buttiglieri, Rumson – Therese Wollman, Sea Bright – Dr. Meg Fisher, Shrewsbury Boro- Paul Roman, Spring Lake – Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake Heights – Dr. Len Giles, Boro of Tinton Falls -Doreen Hoffmann, Boro of West Long Branch – Stephanie Dollinger

12 members were present.

ABSENT:

Allenhurst – Donna Campagna, Deal - Stephen Carasia, Boro of Interlaken – Lori Reibrich, , Loch Arbour – Marilyn Simons, Township of Middletown – Rich DeBenedetto, Boro of Monmouth Beach -Joe Nardone, Sea Girt – Diane Anthony, Boro of Tinton Falls,

OTHERS PRESENT:

David A. Henry, Health Officer (attending in person), Mark Kitrick, Esq (remote), Bruce Padula, Esq, (remote) Sal Alfieri, Esq (remote), Stephen Gallagher, CFO (remote)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

OPEN SESSION:

Approved Minutes January 25, 2022

August 24, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake motioned to approve the Open Session Minutes of August 24, 2021, seconded by Doreen Hoffmann of West Long Branch

Vote: Unanimous by those in attendance.

CLOSED SESSION:

August 24, 2021 Regular Meeting

Doreen Hoffmann, West Long Branch motioned to approve the Closed Session Minutes of August 24, 2021, seconded by Dr. Tim Sullivan, Little Silver

Vote: Anyone who wasn't there abstains. Motion carries.

CLOSED SESSION:

July 27, 2021 Regular Meeting

Dr. Tim Sullivan, Little Silver motioned to approve the Closed Session Minutes of July 27, 2021, seconded by Vinnie Buttiglieri, Ocean Township.

**Resolution 2021-69**

Renegotiate contracts with our member/municipality contracts

Paul Roman, Shrewsbury motioned to accept Resolution 2021-69, seconded by Dr. Meg Fisher, Sea Bright.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Brielle	Yes		
Fair Haven	Yes	Shrewsbury	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Ocean Twp	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Rumson	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
Sea Bright	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes

VOTE: 11 Ayes,0 Nay, 0 Abstain  
Motion Carries.

**Resolution 2021-73**

Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake motioned to pay September 2021 bills, seconded by Paul Roman, Shrewsbury

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Brielle	Yes		
Fair Haven	Yes	Shrewsbury	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Ocean Twp	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Rumson	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
Sea Bright	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes

VOTE: 11 Ayes,0 Nay, 0 Abstain

Motion Carries.

CLOSED SESSION: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

We will be sending out list of Free Rabies Clinics for the fall. Flu clinics are coming up. The Commission of Health office has indicated there is some Grant money that will be going to a couple of organizations including eh NJ HO association, and it will be for Covid regional education and infection control prevention and practices. The health dept announced available funds for the Hep B program and we have until 10/12/21 to apply. CDC & State Health dept have said you can give both Covid 19 & Influenza shots at same time.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT:

We are working on three grants. VPOC grant – Zoom meeting with a number of our Health partners for focus group and discussion. Peg, Michaela, and Adriana will give update. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report is coming up as fiscal year begins in July. We meet with school nurses, infectious disease physicians, mental health care providers and hospital representatives from Hackensack Meridian. We identified a number of barriers that may exist with our VP such as cost of healthcare, lack of insurance, transportation, and barriers, and we went over ideas of how we can address the needs of our VP, and fulfill the needs in our communities. Demographic profile has not changed since 1Q because the census bureau has not released its standard 202 ASC one year estimate due to covid impact. Education was also discussed as students under twelve are not able to be vaccinated yet, and many are unable to adhere to masking and social distance guidelines. Quarantine protocols for exposure can lead to students lack of class time, and school nurses have reported an epidemic of anxiety and depression in teens and preteens. People with mental health issues in our community have become more isolated in the pandemic due to not being able to attend their group settings. Those who live in rooming houses and congregate settings were finding telehealth to be a challenge due to lack of internet services, and privacy concerns. So, sadly we are not showing a lot of good news, but telehealth has been very popular with our younger generation according to our Hackensack Meridian representative. In general, these Town Hall meetings have been helpful

Comments:

Dr. Tim Sullivan – I don't think you're telling us anything we don't already recognize from the past in VP communities, and that we see all over the media.

Recognizing these problems is important but what are we doing to combat these issues?

I volunteer at Parker Family Health Center in Red Bank, and a couple of things we have done that maybe you might replicate:

1. We register people by phone since we know many don't have internet access
2. Same with telehealth outreach, we do more phone contact
3. We provide free medical care, so cost is not a factor, and we work with some churches for outreach of the VP in Red Bank and Monmouth County.
4. In terms of access to facility we have a grant that we are providing Uber and Lyft.

Dr. Fisher have you found anything unique in Long Branch or the State?

Dr. Meg Fisher- I think there are tremendous efforts going on around the state to increase services to all group who are socially vulnerable. You're right there is nothing surprising here that we haven't known for decades. The message is we need to try to make health care equitable, and we haven't done such a great job in the past, but we're trying to do better for the future.

The only thing I was surprised at is about the children wearing masks. We find when the parents aren't around, they do great.

Adriana added that they have used the faith community for outreach, and have also partnered with businesses and the chamber of commerce, and even some complexes in the communities to host vaccination clinics. We have held over 19 clinics.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT continued**

We have vaccinated over 500 people in partnership with the VNA and Walgreen’s and nurse Belvin. Lead grant- we have finished up the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the lead grant, and things are going smoothly as we head to 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

We are working on the strategic plan update. Last time we did this was 2015 or 2016 so we will be emailing you by next month’s meeting to give you details.

Theresa Casagrande, Fair Haven motioned to accept the Health Officer’s report, seconded by Dr. Meg Fisher, Sea Bright

VOTE: Unanimous

**CFO REPORT:**

Nothing more to add at this time.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Treasurer’s report was sent to you all

**RESOLUTION 2021-78**

Accept resignation of Mike Kowal REHS

**RESOLUTION 2021-79**

Accept resignation of Jessica Ferrara Epidemiologist

Discussion- Mike is going to be the Health Officer for Long Branch, and Jessica has taken a position with a laboratory in Eatontown.

Vinnie Buttiglieri motioned to approve Resolutions 78-79, seconded by Mary Anne Donahue, Spring Lake.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Brielle	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Fair Haven	Yes	Shrewsbury	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Rumson	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
		West Long Branch	Yes

VOTE: 11 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain

Motion Carries.

Paul Roman- Change title of Bookkeeper position to Accounting Clerk/Payroll – all in favor

Hiring of new REHS1 – We have a couple of positions open, and hope to inform the HR committee and Commission by October’s meeting

We recommend Gail K as Steve Gallagher’s replacement. We have had extensive interviews with her and she is a great candidate. Vote pending next month.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

**Budget and Finance**  
**RESOLUTION 2021-80**

Accepting of revenue to budget in the amount of Seventeen Thousand (17,000), part of Vaccine Grant. Dr. Meg Fisher motioned to approve Resolution 2021-80, seconded by Paul Roman, Shrewsbury.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Brielle	Yes	Sea Bright	Yes
Fair Haven	Yes	Shrewsbury	Yes
Little Silver	Yes	Spring Lake	Yes
Ocean Twp.	Yes	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Rumson	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
		West Long Branch	Yes

VOTE: 11 Ayes,0 Nay, 0 Abstain  
Motion Carries.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

We have reviewed audit, numbers look good, no negatives, still good surplus. Audit is done.

ORDINANCES:

**Ordinance 2021-1**

First reading to amend the MCRHC No. 1 assessment methodology to calculate each member/ municipality share of the commission annual cost and expenses for 2022-2023.

Vinnie Buttiglieri motioned to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2021-1, seconded by Dr. Margaret Fisher, Sea Bright.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Brielle	Yes	Shrewsbury	Yes
Fair Haven	NO VOTE	Spring Lake	Yes
Little Silver	No	Spring Lake Heights	Yes
Ocean Twp	Yes	Tinton Falls	Yes
Rumson	Yes	West Long Branch	Yes
Sea Bright	Yes		

VOTE: 11 Ayes,0 Nay, 0 Abstain

Motion Carries.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Middletown and Middletown Board of Ed

Mark Kitrick is here, and Bruce Padula, and Sal Alfieri have been asked to the waiting room.

Rick DeBenedetto felt there was a conflict between our attorneys who represent the Board of Ed in Middletown. Both the Administrator of Middletown and Rich DeBenedetto felt the level of cooperation wasn't in keeping with what was recommended by the State Health Department and the State Board of Health. Rich felt this is a conflict of interest with Bruce representing the Board of Ed, and not recusing himself at that moment. Mark Kitrick states that this has now been disposed of, Bruce has given us a lit of other areas which he is an attorney for either the Board of Ed or General counsel for the towns so what happens is if this issue comes up, we know when recusal should occur.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Public Comment Period

(Notification to phone in posted on Agenda)

Paul Roman – I have a few items.

I had a long discussion with Dave, Len and Cindy Weaver who is a VP Coordinator also working on update Accreditation. After one extension automatically granted and one requested, it's going to be a tight squeeze to make the 9/30/21 deadline as we need a couple of items across the board. Dave mentioned strategic plan, which was a big hit last time we went through this, and PHAB know our coordinator Mike Kowal left so in order to have the appropriate leadership we asked for the six-month extension and Cindy Weaver working on Accreditation with a new deadline of 3/29/22.

We have a certificate which I presented at a lunch to John Mack who for many years was the Commissioner from Tinton Falls. John was also the Emergency Management coordinator there and long time EMS buddy of mine.

The citation reads: Presented to Commissioner John Mack Borough of Tinton Falls 2/2014 – 2/2021. With our heartfelt thanks for your corroboration and advice as a member of our Commission and as chair of the operations committee, and in support of our mission to provide quality public health services. Best wishes for the future.

New Jersey Public Health Association is having their conference on 10/8/21. I sent email to everyone, good agenda, no cost, one and half hour conference in the middle of the day. Also, looking for nominees for their annual awards session. I am on the awards committee.

Finally, Advocacy. A lot is going on in Washington inspired by what's going on in our state and big universities public health schools. Washington is finally realizing Public Health is so under funded and they're getting to put bills forward. Congressman Palone is the congressman on the committee on the House side; Senator Murray on the Senate side. They are trying to get some permanent funding for Public Health, finally.

New Jersey survey is being finished up, there will be an Eagleton poll and we'll have more information as of December 1, 2021 when there is a rollout on the whole study of Public Health.

And last, you as Commissioners, all of us as Commissioners need to calm some of this resistance and antagonism that's going on out there. It's really causing a problem for public health people, and it doesn't make

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things easier. It's not just the shots and vaccinations, but its masking, and a total disregard for public health, and it's a shame.

Next meeting 10/26/2021  
We are adjourned.

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Secretary Pro Tem

Reviewed by

David A. Henry  
HEALTH OFFICER

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