

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
July 14, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Mahwah was held via Zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Board of Health President, George Cimis.

The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law and was followed by Roll Call:

**PRESENT:** Mr. Cimis  
Dr. DeMaria  
Mrs. DeSilva  
Ms. Esty  
Mr. Harris  
Mr. LoFaso  
Mr. Matysiak

**PROFESSIONALS:** Mrs. Darlene Mandeville, NWBRHC  
Mrs. Joanne Wendolowski, HARP  
Mr. Jeffrey Mason, Esq.  
Mrs. Homler, REHS  
Mr. Ervin, Council Liaison  
Mrs. Campbell, Administrative Secretary  
Mrs. Hagan, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Harris and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously agreed to by all present to approve the June 2020 Meeting Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF JUNE 2020 HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORTS**

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Matysiak to approve the Health Activities Report of June 2020.

Mrs. DeSilva queried the four Bolla Markets which opened in Mahwah. Mrs. Homler replied that Bolla now occupies Quick Stop Deli, a gas station on Franklin Tpke, Valero North and Valero South. The tenant applications were for change of ownership only, but our licenses are not transferable.

Mr. Lofaso queried the process for permitting outdoor dining. Mrs. Homler replied that application was made through the Township Clerk. Permissions were needed from the property owner, the Police Department, the Fire Code Official and the Health Department. Each establishment was inspected for compliance with State mandated protocols.

There being no further questions or discussion, the June 2020 Health Activities Report was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2020**

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the Health Officer's Report for June 2020.

Mr. Cimis queried whether there have been changes to the social distancing requirements due to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases. Mrs. Homler stated that plans to reinstate indoor dining have been put on hold. Enforcement of social distancing guidelines and the wearing of masks is still in place; masks must be worn outdoors if a minimum distance of six feet between individuals cannot be maintained.

Mrs. Mandeville replied that focus is now on protocol to safely reopen schools in September. As activities expand, guidelines are being established and updated regularly.

Mrs. Wendolowski commented that the measures for screening of positive cases are still in place. Screening includes inquiries into places of travel, attendance at any large gatherings (i.e. protest marches, demonstrations, graduations, etc.) She clarified that even if an individual is wearing a mask when exposed to a positive COVID-19 person, the quarantine measures are still applicable. These measures apply to all masks including N-95. The mask protects the wearer from infecting others.

There being no further comments or discussion, the Health Officer's Report for June 2020, was unanimously approved.

**BILLS**

Moved by Mr. Matysiak and, seconded by Mr. LoFaso to approve the bills for June 2020. Mr. Matysiak inquired as to the number of flu vaccines ordered. Mrs. Campbell replied that 50 vaccines were ordered and clinics will be held remotely at both Norfolk Village

and Chapel Green where there are significant senior populations. First responders will also be eligible to receive the vaccine.

There being no further questions or discussion, the motion to pay the bills was unanimously carried.

#### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Mr. Cimis suggested revisiting the membership of each committee with the addition of Ms. Esty to the Board. Two vacancies are currently available vacated by Mr. Wasson. Standing Committee Membership will be placed on the agenda for the September 2020 meeting.

#### **REPORT OF ATTORNEY**

Mr. Mason is still pursuing the idea of posting a bond when an animal is held in quarantine after a biting incident. He will reach out to the Township Attorney to establish the correct protocol and procedure.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter was received from REHS, Diane Homler, announcing her retirement from the Health Department after 32 years of continuous service. The Board Members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for all of Mrs. Homler's dedication and hard work over the years.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Ervin informed the Board that the County-sponsored COVID testing that was offered at the Municipal Building in May was successful with more than 750 tests performed.

Mrs. Wendolowski stated that 298 confirmed cases of COVID have been reported in the Township year-to-date. The majority of these cases occurred in March and April. To date, there have been 25 confirmed deaths of residents due to COVID-19 infection.

The demographics show individuals between the ages of 35-64 represent approximately 65% of the confirmed cases, ages 65-89 represent 22% and individuals over the age of 90 account for 7%. The mortality

breakdown indicates 92% of mortalities were in individuals over the age of 65 with 33% of those being over age 90.

An important part of the contact tracing involves documenting symptomology. The loss of both smell and taste has been added to the list of possible indicators for infection.

The two assisted living facilities in the municipality are still being monitored for active outbreaks. One facility has not had an outbreak for 28 days; the other has had one case in the past month. Residents are being tested every two weeks if they have not had a previous positive test result.

Mr. Cimis queried how many tests overall were performed on Mahwah residents. Mrs. Wendolowski will provide that information to Mrs. Campbell shortly.

Mrs. Wendolowski and Mrs. Mandeville confirmed that the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) will be reporting the positivity rate and transmission factor by County on a weekly basis.

Mrs. Wendolowski stated that the current concern dictating when and how we can move toward reopening is the likelihood of reinfection. If an individual has a positive test result and tests positive again more than six weeks later, it is unclear whether this is a reinfection or merely remnant DNA.

Mr. Matysiak queried the status of guidelines for the reopening of schools. Mrs. Wendolowski stated those guidelines are expected to be released shortly by the State. Mrs. Mandeville replied that schools that are currently open are following the guidelines set forth for summer camps. A more extensive protocol is expected to be put in place for the September opening of schools.

Mr. Mason suggested posting the guidelines for school reopening on the Mahwah Health Department website or providing a link to the Board of Education website containing this information.

Mrs. Homler is currently a member of the Board of Education's reopening task force. The task force is a diverse group of individuals made up of parents, medical professionals and staff members. It is broken into three subgroups, i.e. Curriculum, Health and Wellness and Facilities. Mrs. Homler is a member of the Facilities Committee which oversees the operation of the cafeteria, social distancing measures as well as monitoring of entrances and exits. They have been working with nearby municipalities and looking at policy internationally to gain insight and develop the most comprehensive plan.

The Board of Education must submit their reopening plan to the County Board of Education by July 27<sup>th</sup> as well as to the office of the Governor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public present.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm was made by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Matysiak and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 8, 2020**, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan  
Recording Secretary