

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES  
February 9, 2021**

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 (7:38)

**PROFESSIONALS:** Mrs. Gina Behre, Health Officer  
Mrs. Diane Homler, REHS  
Mr. Jeffrey Mason, BOH Attorney  
Mrs. Marianne Campbell, Administrative Secretary  
Mrs. Kathryn Hagan, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF January 2021 REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mr. Harris and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the January 2021 Reorganization Meeting Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Harris and, seconded by Mr. LoFaso and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the January 2021 Meeting Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2020**

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. LoFaso and, unanimously agreed by all present to approve the Health Activities Report for December 2020.

**APPROVAL OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021**

Moved by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the Health Activities Report for January 2021.

Mr. Cimis requested feedback regarding the webinar viewed by Mr. Maas entitled "Legalization of Marijuana in New Jersey." Mrs. Homler will ask Mr. Maas for a synopsis to provide to the Board.

There being no further questions or discussion, the Health Activities Report for January 2021 was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2021**

Moved by Dr. DeMaria and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva to approve the Health Officer's Report for January 2021.

Mrs. Behre advised there is a new federal mask mandate stipulating that masks must be worn while using public transportation i.e. airplanes, trains, subways, buses etc. Individuals refusing to comply will be denied service on New York and New Jersey Transit systems.

Governor Murphy granted permission for indoor sports to resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that this may cause an increase to positive COVID cases in the near future.

Mrs. Behre also shared that the Governor has increased permissible seating at restaurants to 35 percent of actual capacity.

The New Jersey Department of Health designated NWBRHC as an approved vaccine supplier. Discussion and planning had been ongoing to schedule a Mahwah vaccine clinic in February. Unfortunately, all vaccine that was originally allocated to local health departments have now been reallocated to the Bergen County Health Department for use at at New Bridge Medical Center. The County is currently receiving up to 2,000 doses of vaccine per week with the ability to receive and administer up to 5,000 doses.

Extensive work and planning between Mrs. Behre, Mrs. Duroy, (Senior Center Director), and Mrs. Campbell had taken place determining the best way to set up the Mahwah Senior Center as a vaccination site and to register our first responders (police, fire, OEM and MEMS) for a February clinic. Mrs. Campbell had registered approximately 30 first responders when we learned that we would not be getting our vaccine allocation.

At this point, Mrs. Behre reached out to Mayor Wysocki to advise him of the situation. The Mayor made several calls to his contacts, and obtained slots for Mahwah's first responders to go to New Bridge for the vaccine. She deferred to Mrs. Campbell for clarification on the process.

Mrs. Campbell stated that Mayor Wysocki had reached out to Captain Stuart Blank, Mahwah PD. Captain Blank in turn, reached out to his contacts at the County and managed to obtain 50 slots for the Mahwah first responders. He then gave her access to their scheduling system. All first responders whose appointments she had to cancel were called back and given an opportunity to get vaccinated at New Bridge.

Captain Blank confirmed that once the 50 doses had been administered, the County would continue to allocate five appointments per day for our most vulnerable senior population. At that point, the Senior Director will take on the task of screening and scheduling appointments.

Mrs. Behre noted that the State has activated a call center with 250 live agents ready to assist residents with registering and obtaining an appointment.

Mrs. Behre then informed the Board that a group of Bergen County Health Officers have formed a coalition and petitioned the County Health Department to open additional clinics throughout Bergen County. They are also encouraging a mobile unit to be deployed to reach homebound individuals.

There being no further questions or comments, the Health Officer's Report for January 2021 was unanimously approved.

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

Mr. LoFaso and Mr. Matysiak, with the assistance of Mr. Mason, have been working on a Board of Health Mission Statement. Mr. Mason advised that the statement should be ready to present to the Board at the March 2021 meeting.

#### **REPORT OF ATTORNEY**

Mr. Mason reported that he received information from Mrs. Homler regarding the Medical Reserve Corps and deferred to Mrs. Homler for more information. Mrs. Homler stated the Corps has a list of approximately 300 non-clinical volunteers willing to offer assistance

at a clinic. Currently, a large contingency are assisting at the County-run clinic at New Bridge Medical Center.

Mr. Mason confirmed that doctors and physicians assistants are not covered under Mahwah's Liability Insurance policy. However, statutory immunity would be provided by the Pandemic Response Emergency Planning (PREP) Act.

Mr. Mason then advised that he has reviewed the 2021 annual contract with Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission for health officer services and the inter-local agreement with the Borough of Waldwick for Child Health Services. Both contracts are in order and ready for approval at the Board's discretion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None to present.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

A motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2021-04 and Resolution 2021-05 was made by Mrs. DeSilva and, seconded by Dr. DeMaria and, unanimously carried.

**Resolution #2020-04: Health Officer/Health Education Contract 2021**

Introduced: Mrs. DeSilva  
Second: Dr. DeMaria  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes

Motions carries.

**Resolution #2020-05: Inter-local Agreement for Child Health Services**

Introduced: Mrs. DeSilva  
Second: Mr. LoFaso  
Roll Call: 7 Ayes

Motion carries.

Mr. Matysiak inquired as to the outbreak status at Mahwah's long-term care facilities. Mrs. Behre reported that currently both facilities are not reporting any outbreaks.

Mrs. Behre stated that a member of the Mahwah High School hockey team presented as a positive case, and the entire team is now in quarantine. The High School has remained open.

Mr. Matysiak requested any updates on the process of obtaining a surety bond for any animals held at Tyco's facility pending litigation. Mr. Mason will follow up. Mrs. Campbell asked if Tyco couldn't require a surety bond as part of their contract with Mahwah. Mr. Mason stated that there would still need to be an amendment to the Township ordinance in order to enforce such a requirement through the court system.

Mr. Matysiak requested any updates from Mrs. Behre regarding the reopening of schools. Mrs. Behre stated that NWBRHC has been collaborating with several communities regarding each District's transmission rate and a reopening plan. She has not yet received any information from the Mahwah BOE regarding reopening.

Mr. LoFaso requested updates on the number of vaccines administered in New Jersey to date. Mrs. Behre stated the number is approximately one million with 120,000 of these being administered within Bergen County.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public present.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm was made by Mr. Matysiak and, seconded by Mrs. DeSilva and, unanimously agreed to by all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2021, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Hagan  
Recording Secretary