

**MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH
REORGANIZATION MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2020 at 7:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Charles Perry
Ms. Brielle Cook
Dr. Steven Marcus
Dr. Arnold Pallay
Dr. Sachin Shah
Dr. Sunil Shah

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Betty Bowers

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Pennella, BOH Attorney
Aimee Puluso, Health Officer
June Hercek, Asst. Administrator
Victor Canning, Township Administrator
Dr. Matt Kayne, Township Committee
Kim Horiguchi, Board Secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mr. Charles Perry called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Ms. Horiguchi took a roll call of members present.

As required by the Open Public Meetings Act (a.k.a. "Sunshine Law"), adequate notice of this meeting was provided. The notice specified the meeting was to be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Health Department at the Montville Township Municipal Building, 195 Changebridge Road. Legal notice of this meeting e-mailed to The Daily Record newspaper, posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Building, posted with agenda on the Montville Township website at www.montvillenj.org, and filed with the Montville Township Clerk.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry to approve the minutes of the Board of Health meeting held on May 18, 2020. Second - Dr. Pallay. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comments

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Pallay to open the meeting to public comments from any citizen wishing to speak before the Montville Township Board of Health on items on the agenda, and items not on the agenda. Second – Ms. Cook. All in favor. Motion passed.

Lisa Drombitas, 83 Windsor Dr. Pine Brook

Concerns about the schools opening specifically if they are going to take gym class. Suggested maybe doing the Health portion for the 1st half. Health Officer Aimee Puluso will relay this suggestion to the Montville Board of Education Superintendent Dr. Rene Rovtar during the next District Reopening Committee meeting.

Sarah Foye, 38 Buckingham Circle Pine Brook

Questioned the time between someone getting sick & how long it takes to be reported on the Health Department's COVID page, and question about how contact tracing works. Health Officer Aimee Puluso explained these processes. Concerns about students/staff at Montville schools using face coverings with valves on them, as they are not as effective as those without valves. Health Officer Aimee Puluso will express this concern to Montville Board of Education Superintendent and suggest that reopening plans specify that face coverings be worn by students and staff must be effective.

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Pallay to close the meeting to public comments. Second – Ms. Cook. All in favor. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business – None.

New Business

- Ms. Betty Bowers, submitted her written resignation from her position as Vice President, but will remain on the Board as a member.

MOTION: A motion was made by Dr. Sachin Shah to nominate Dr. Arnold Pallay to serve in the position of Vice President for the remainder of the term. Second - Dr. Steven Marcus. Roll call vote - all in favor. Motion passed.

- The Board discussed possible additional ways to keep the public information about COVID-19, and to increase public engagement with the Board of Health (both to inform public of the work of the Board, and awareness of interests/concerns of the public). Ideas discussed included: webinars for the general public, podcasts, sending weekly summaries and educational materials to residents, non-electronic forms of communications for those not online, survey population to see how they would like to be informed, check number of hits on website, monthly mailed newsletter, publicize to the public that they can sign up for push notifications of Township website updates (these can be customized by the requestor), and increased use of electronic sign boards owned by the Township, the Fire Departments, and the Board of Education for COVID messages.
- The Board requested a brief item be added to the Health Department's COVID page to help the public interpret the data presented, and to help the public gauge the status of COVID-19 in the Township in comparison to other communities, and the state. Health Officer Aimee Puluso will add an Executive Summary near the top of the page. The Board requested one or two lines be added after the 7-day positivity rate chart noting what the recommended rates are, and requested that the percentage number be displayed on the graph. Health Officer Aimee Puluso will add that.
- The Board requested that the Township explore video conferencing options for the Board of Health meetings instead of telephone conference call.

Reports

- Health Officer Aimee Puluso presented, and the Board reviewed, the Health Department monthly activity reports for May and June 2020. The Board requested clarification on what information the Board could be provided with regarding communicable disease investigations, including measles, and not violate any HIPAA regulations. Board of Health attorney David Pennella responded that requests for specific information would have to be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Health Officer Aimee Puluso answered questions from the Board that had been submitted prior to the meeting. A written copy of these questions and answers will be provided to the Board of Health members and the public by being posted on the Health Department's Board of Health page.
- Health Officer Aimee Puluso presented, and the Board reviewed, a COVID-19 summary.

Adjournment

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Dr. Pallay to adjourn the meeting. Second - Dr. Marcus. All in favor. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.