

**MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH
REORGANIZATION MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2020 at 7:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Charles Perry
Ms. Betty Bowers
Dr. Steven Marcus
Dr. Arnold Pallay
Dr. Sachin Shah
Dr. Sunhil Shah
Ms. Brielle Cooke (8:05)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Aimee Puluso, Health Officer
Dave Pennella, Attorney
Kim Horiguchi, Board Secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mr. Charles Perry called the reorganization meeting to order at 7:31 p.m., and 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 Council Chambers at the Montville Township Municipal Building, 195 Changebridge Road. The meeting notice was posted on the public bulletin board in the Montville Township Municipal building, sent to the Daily Record newspaper, and was 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 December 9, 2019. Second Dr. Marcus, all in favor.

Public Comments

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry, seconded by Ms. Betty Bowers, all in favor, to open the meeting to public comments for any citizen wishing to speak before the Montville Township Board of Health on items on the agenda, and items not on the agenda. Motion passed. There were no public comments.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry, seconded by Dr. Steven Marcus, all in favor, to close the meeting to public comments. Motion passed.

Reports

Health Officer Aimee Puluso presented and the Board reviewed the Health Department monthly activity reports for January & February 2020, and presented a COVID-19 summary.

Per the request of Dr. Marcus, an addendum to the minutes has been added with that includes his comments regarding long-term care facilities. No motion was raised in regards to this discussion.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry to approve Resolution 2020-04, which authorizes a professional services agreement for medical clinic physician services with Dr. Patricia Baran from January 01, 2019 through December 31, 2021. Second Ms. Betty Bowers, all in favor. Motion passed.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry, to introduce an Ordinance repealing the Code of the Township of Montville Chapter 421 "Massage and Bodywork Therapy Establishments". Second Dr. Pallay, all in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comments

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry, seconded by Ms. Brielle Cook, all in favor, to open the meeting to public comments for any citizen wishing to speak before the Montville Township Board of Health on items on the agenda, and items not on the agenda. Motion passed. There were no public comments.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry, seconded by Ms. Betty Bowers, all in favor, to close the meeting to public comments. Motion passed. The meeting was closed to public comments.

Adjournment

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Charles Perry, seconded by Ms. Betty Bowers, all in favor, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Board of Health Minutes March 09, 2020 - Addendum

Per Dr. Marcus' request, the following discussion regarding long-term care facilities is included as an addendum to the minutes of the meeting. No motion was made in regards to this discussion.

Dr. Marcus asked whether or not Health Department staff had done something with the long-term care facilities in town, since the most at-risk populations live in them, and he felt a proactive approach by the Health Department would be wise. Ms. Puluso responded that the Health Department as per established protocols had already been in contact with both of the facilities, and had provided them with the guidance issued by NJDOH that lists in detail the steps they must take. Dr. Marcus asked if the Health Department staff had gone into the facilities in person to assess their readiness. Ms. Puluso began to reply that the Health Department had been in contact with them and was unable to finish her sentence. Dr. Marcus interrupted to state that that was not what he had asked, he asked if anyone from the Health Department had physically gone into the facilities to help them in their preparations. Ms. Puluso responded that Health Department staff had not physically gone into the facilities.

Public Health Nurse Barbara Zigarelli stated that as per the standard protocols for any outbreak in a long-term care facility, the Health Department has been in contact with the facilities, advised them there is an outbreak of an influenza-like illness, discussed the messaging of the facilities to their staff, residents, and resident's families, reviewed what plans they already had in place for an influenza-type illness, what resources and supplies they had available, what they needed, and stated that they know that the Health Department is here for them as a resource. She further clarified that the Health Department does not have supplies to offer them, as the Health Department has some, but not a lot. Dr. Marcus stated that he didn't want the facilities to be "caught with their pants down" similar to what had happened to long-term care facilities in the state of Washington, where he stated there were severe health outcomes and deaths because the facility was inadequately prepared.

Mr. Perry asked Mrs. Zigarelli if the Health Department was in constant contact with the facilities, and if the staff there were aware of what was going on, and she responded in the affirmative to both. Dr. Marcus again suggested an in-person, face-to-face visit by the Health Department with their staff. Dr. Sunhil Shah stated that it may help with compliance on the part of the facilities. Ms. Puluso stated that although it is true that a facility may or may not be truthful over the phone, that the protocol for the Health Department is not to physically monitor the outbreak response of a facility continually, and that going into and through the facility in person would be counter to protocols from the state for social distancing for these facilities. Dr. Shah clarified that he meant making sure the facility knew that they were being monitored. Ms. Puluso stated that the facilities were aware of that because the Health Department is in constant daily communication with them whenever there is any type of disease outbreak at these facilities, the same protocol as they have followed when the Health Department has worked with them on several outbreaks in the past.