

**MEETING OF THE MONTVALE BOARD OF HEALTH
CONFERENCE ROOM #1, 2nd floor/ZOOM MEETING
12 MERCEDES DRIVE
MONTVALE, NJ 07645
March 1, 2021**

President Cohen called the meeting of the Board of Health to order at 7:45pm. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided to *The Record* informing the public of the time and place, according to the Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975). The Sunshine Law is in effect. Meeting Open to the Public.

Roll Call

Members: J. Cohen, President (P), G. Clark (P) M. Danna, Vice- President (P), L. Hopper (A), J. Jacobson (P) J. Landzberg (P), & P. Lennon (P)

Non- Members: Council Liaison Koelling (P), & Secretary J. Russo (P)

Contracted Professionals:

G. Behre, Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission Health (P)

J. Wendolowski, Hackensack Meridian Health Public Health Nurse (A)

The meeting information was posted on the website and the Sunshine Law is in effect. There was no one from the public. This meeting is held via Zoom and information was posted on the Borough website. President Cohen thanked Mayor Ghassali for his assistance in arranging the virtual meeting.

President Cohen asked for a motion to approve the January minutes. J. Jacobson made a motion to approve the minutes & M. Danna seconded it. The minutes were approved on a roll call vote. The minutes will be posted on Borough website.

G. Behre, Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission Health Officer reported that she is in constant contact with the NJ Department of Health. The state guidelines and restrictions are often updated. G. Behre informed the members that Gov. Murphy Announced Expansion of Eligibility for New Jersey's COVID-19 Vaccination Program; Expansion Includes Educators, Childcare Workers, Transportation Workers, and Other Frontline Essential Workers and High-Risk Groups. In addition, the restrictions on attendance capacity for sporting events, local sports and religious services has been updated.

The Borough's website continues to provide updates of information and it is recommended that residents visit credible websites such as [NJ Health and Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) to stay informed.](#)

President Cohen updated the members regarding the activity since the last meeting. The Borough has received a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines which were offered to the police & fire departments & Tri Boro Ambulance. Those that were interested received the vaccines.

President Cohen said later in February, Public Health Nurse contacted herself and Mayor Ghassali, that fifty vaccines were designated for Montvale's senior population. A meeting between President Cohen and Mayor Ghassali resulted in the vaccine's availability being advertised on social media with a firm registration deadline. Residents were encouraged to share the information with senior residents who may not use the internet. The Mayor's assistant received emails from eligible residents, which exceeded the supply. Residents

that qualify per the state age requirements were placed on waiting list. Later in month, a small amount was received and the residents on the list were notified. Residents are encouraged to continue to register on all state designated vaccine distribution websites as well as local participating pharmacies.

Mayor Ghassali remains optimistic that a local clinic will be made available in Montvale.

Health Officer G. Behre said she has received approval from NJ Health Department to receive a supply of the vaccine for NW Bergen Regional Health Commission contracted municipalities. No information regarding dates or amounts are available at this time. Once information is available it will be shared on Borough's social media. She stated that, in the future, a Montvale clinic sponsored by NWBRHC is possible.

Public Health Nurse, J. Wendolowski is conducting contact tracing. The schools are responsible for school district tracing. A school guideline requires those that tested positive to remain at home from school for 14 days. President will contact J. Wendolowski and G. Behre will email J. Wendolowski in addition so that the Board can be kept abreast of closures.

President Cohen reported that J. Wendolowski provides she and Mayor Ghassali with a weekly report of the number of positive cases in the Borough. Data provided is an approximation. President Cohen and Mayor Ghassali are in on-going communication.

President Cohen reported that, there is currently a list of licensed registered nurses that volunteer at local level to help administer the vaccines. The list remains with the Board of Health.

President Cohen informed the members that HARP and Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission contracts, although above the municipal cap, was approved by Mayor & Council.

Health License invoices were mailed to food establishments and vendors and J. Russo stated she is receiving payments. Animal license deadline was February 28. The animal license officer continues to process licenses.

President Cohen discussed that there was feedback regarding the cancellation of the Annual Rabies Clinic which was scheduled for January. J. Landzberg voice strong support that that the decision to cancel the clinic was to ensure everyone's health and was more than appropriate. President Cohen asked the Board if they would consider having the clinic in early November, outside if possible. The clinic would be for vaccinations and not licensing at that time. This will be discussed further next month. The Board is also anticipating the Annual Season Flu Clinic to be held in September and will discuss this further in the next few months.

M. Iarossi Alwin asked the Board to discuss the NJDEP Noise Control Act. Council Liaison Knoelling provided information that this was a topic at the last Mayor & Council meeting. Currently the Borough has a noise ordinance. This could be an addition to the existing ordinance. It emphasizes quality of life and would be under the scope of the Board of Health as well as the Borough. Health Officer G. Behre educated members as she is certified in this area and familiar with the model ordinance from NJDEP. A calibrated sound level meter must be purchased and maintained per NJDEP guidelines. Council Liaison said

he will discuss this topic further with our Police Chief. The cost of an acceptable sound meter was discussed and additional information will be forthcoming.

Member J. Landzberg inquired if the recent state law of marijuana usage falls under a Borough ordinance regarding smoking. President Cohen said the Governor will be addressing that in state laws as per the media. The Board will monitor the new laws, and then determine if the currently ordinance requires amending. J. Landzberg asked that the current ordinance be sent to members. The members will receive the information as soon as possible.

President Cohen asked the secretary to explain to the Board that currently the ordinance requiring food license has an inaccurate due date. The date states January 31 and should read March 1 of each calendar year. It was an oversight, which the Borough attorney discovered. President Cohen asked for motion to amend the ordinance & asked for it in form of a motion. J. Jacobsen made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-01 & P. Lennon seconded it. All in favor.

The functional limitation questionnaire that was sent out via Mayor's email blast and is on the website/e-newsletter has a low response. J. Landzberg said vulnerable residents may be reluctant to share the information. Discussion about modifying the application was discussed.

Monthly Reports

Tyco Animal Report – M. Danna gave February report.

NW Bergen Reg. Health Commission Activity Reports G. Behre read January & February report, items discussed.

Registrar & Vital Static Report- M. Danna read report for January & February.

Child Health Conference Report- No report.

Council Liaison Report- Council Knoelling update the members on road repairs. Dieter provided items discussed at last M & C meeting.

Members are reminded to check their emails for meeting updates and notices.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by J. Landzberg & second by M. Danna. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Dates: ~~January 4, March 1,~~ May 3, June 7, September 13, November 1, & December 6.