

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM

President Cheriyan stated that notice of this meeting held via Zoom was posted on the Bergenfield Website, sent by e-mail to the Record and Cablevision. It was placed on two bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and placed on file in the Borough Clerk’s office.

ROLL CALL

- Dr. Cheriyan
- Mrs. Pfannen
- Mr. Cabuhat
- Dr. Quiroz
- Mrs. Marte

Also present Councilman Deauna, Mr. Yanovich, Ms. August, Mrs. Williams and K. Williams

OPEN HEARING

There being no one present who wished to be heard, on a motion by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Mrs. Marte and carried the time for Open Hearings was closed.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Mrs. Marte and carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting of October 2020 be accepted as written.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Mrs. Williams stated that on behalf of President Cheriyan, Purchase Orders have been signed by Mrs. Williams and submitted. A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen, seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried that the following bills were paid.

Tyco	3,036.66
Tyco	2,916.66
Cooper	1,097.25
FRA	650.00
North Jersey Media Group	339.28

REPORTS

Legal and Finance

“Progress”

Medical

Dr. Quiroz reported that the COVI-19 vaccine should be ready soon.

Personnel

Mrs. Pfannen reported that she prepared the 2021 salary proposal for the Health Department employees that was agreed on by the Board. Mrs. Pfannen stated she will email the proposal to Mr. Gallo and Mayor and Council for approval.

Mrs. Williams stated that Natalia Marte's term as a Board of Health member will expire on December 31, 2020. Mrs. Marte stated she will let us know about being re-appointed.

Publicity

A post on the Website and in the Record regarding the Board of Health meeting.

Liaison To Mayor & Council

Councilman Deauna stated that he would not comment at this time on the termination of the Mid-Bergen Shared Services contract that has been a topic of conversation. He will reserve his comments until the Closed Session meeting scheduled for November 17th to discuss the contract. Councilman Deauna also stated that the Board of Health is doing an incredible job for the town and that the Health Department is successfully functioning and will continue to do so regardless the outcome.

Mrs. Pfannen asked if the Board was on the agenda for the closed session of the Mayor and Council meeting and Councilman Deauna replied that he hadn't seen the agenda yet but said he would look into it.

Legislature & Regulatory

"Progress"

Written Reports of the Department

Mr. Yanovich reported that the latest Regional COVID-19 Activity level report has a "moderate" level in every region of the State. The Northeast region has the highest case rate due mostly to indoor sports, and not necessary school related (i.e. hockey).

Mr. Yanovich stated that as of November 9th, the Governor passed new guidelines not allowing inter-state sports which could possibly make a small impact on indoor sports transmission.

New guidelines have also been set for indoor dining, which include closing at 10pm as well as no bar seating indoors or outdoors.

Contact tracing is moving forward in full force. NJDOH is using Hot Spot Teams to respond to areas that are seeing increased cases. Hot Spot management includes: increased testing, adding more Contact Tracers and ensuring isolation and quarantine housing is available.

Mr. Yanovich reported that COVID vaccination distribution plan is being discussed weekly with State and County health officials. The distribution will be conducted by Health Departments, hospitals, pharmacies and health centers. Bergenfield is in the system as a vaccine distribution site. Mr. Yanovich also stated that four companies are currently conducting Phase 3 trials, and each has certain requirements (i.e. one vs. two doses, subfreezing storage temperature requirements, etc).

Long term care facilities will be receiving their COVID vaccines through an on-site distribution program with national pharmacy chains. NJDOH will provide weekly state, region, and county data on the COVID-19 public dashboard "Schools" tab, as well as limited school-level data as a means to provide health officials, and the public, with important information concerning the impact of COVID-19 in the schools. Schools must provide the weekly data to the State.

Mr. Yanovich also stated that statewide influenza activity is still at the "low" level of activity.

Ms. Kayla Williams reported that she inspected the elementary and middle school in town at the request of the Superintendent although, there is no food processing going on there. She will inspect Hoover and the High School next week where food is being processed. President Cheriyan asked if the restaurants in town were notified of the most recent Executive Order regarding 10PM closures. Kayla responded that she emails the restaurants any new Executive Order and State Guidelines as issued but did not email them regarding the 10PM closure because that was already in place in Bergenfield.

President Cheriyan asked Kayla if restaurants are following the guidelines of testing employees as required. Kayla replied that she is ensuring that restaurants have COVID protocol, including health check questionnaires in place. She also stated that there are many restaurants and the bigger grocery stores in town that are doing the health checks, questionnaires and temperature check.

President Cheriyan also asked Kayla to ensure that all establishments follow guidelines regarding hand sanitizers and sanitary wipes. They should always be in place and available to the customers at all times to ensure the safety of the residents.

Ms. August reported that the number of positive cases in town are increasing which in turn, increases Contact Tracing. Ms. August stated that phone call take up a majority of her time. Mostly, the school system with different scenarios such as but not limited to employees being exposed, a parent testing positive, visitors from other States/Countries and what the protocol is. Ms. August stated as Mr. Yanovich pointed out, Bergenfield is a site approved by the State and the CDC to administer the COVID-19 vaccine when available. Locations are being discussed where a clinic can be held to ensure the safety of the public.

Vice-President Pfannen stated that the COVID-19 Activity Level Report that she receives on a weekly basis from the Health Department is very informative and appreciates it.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Mrs. Marte and carried that the written October 2020 Reports of the Department be accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was sent to the Bergenfield Board of Health from Tyco Animal Control Services stating that their contract with the Borough of Bergenfield was not being renewed for 2021.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Testing Kit

Ms. August reported on the COVID-19 detector kit received by the Health Department. After some research and many calls, Ms. August feels the kit came directly from BD. The purpose she believes was to provide you with the machine but all other components needed would have to be purchased at the cost of the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mid-Bergen Contract 2021

Vice-President Pfannen spoke on the advantages of renewing the contract for shared services with Mid-Bergen for 2021 as opposed to contracting with Bergen County. Mid-Bergen services 14 towns as opposed to the County servicing 33 towns, therefore allowing the Mid-Bergen Health Officer to be more available to the town and more accessible. Direct communication with the Mid-Bergen Health Officer is available 24/7.

The Mid-Bergen Health Officer has responded promptly to every contact made year to date. He has attended all Board of Health meetings and submitted a monthly report. The Health Officer kept the Board updated on all activity related to the Health Department especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board passed a ‘Cosmetology’ ordinance effective January 1st, 2021 to inspect Nail Salons/Barber Shops. Our current Mid-Bergen Inspector would conduct these inspections. The County does not inspect nail salons. The biggest advantage is having the Mid-Bergen Inspector in our office 4 days a week available to respond to any issues in Bergenfield at a moment’s notice, including evenings and weekends if needed. Being in the office and available 4 days a week, allows the Mid-Bergen inspector to work directly with the building department, code enforcement officer daily to resolve any issues that requires their input more quickly and effectively. Two additional inspections the current Mid-Bergen Inspector conducts are for massage parlors and grease traps. Bergen County does not provide these services.

President Cheriyan stated that continuing with Mid-Bergen for 2021 especially in the middle of a pandemic is what he recommends for the best interest of the town. President Cheriyan also stated that there has been all positive feedback on the services Mid-Bergen has provided to the town this past year and will relay that information to the Mayor & Council. The Board will meet with Mayor & Council on November 17th and present their case.

Vice-President Pfannen stated that as President Cheriyan suggested, it would benefit the town to contract with Mid-Bergen for 2021 and evaluate other options for 2022.

2. Approve Standing Orders

Mrs. Williams presented the Board with the signed Standing Orders for 2021. Ms. August spoke on there being no changes from 2020. It was the decision of the Board to accept them as presented.

VERBAL COMMUNITATION

A resident attending the meeting asked why the contract for shared services with Mid-Bergen was being terminated since they were providing the town with great service. President Cheriyan replied that they were meeting with the Mayor and Council to discuss reconsidering the termination for all the reasons Vice-President Pfannen mentioned earlier. The resident asked if the reason to terminate was a money issue to which President Cheriyan stated that it is more cost effective to continue with Mid-Bergen and will present all the reasons to continue with Mid Bergen to the Governing Body at the next Mayor & Council meeting. Councilman Deauna stated that a message was sent asking to include the Board on the agenda for the November 17th Mayor and Council meeting.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Felicia Williams
Registrar of Vital Statistics