

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-Absent
- Dr. Quiroz
- Mrs. Marte

Also, present Mr. Fedorko, Council President Deauna, Mrs. Williams, Kayla Williams and Liz Cruz.

**OPEN HEARING**

There being no one present who wished to be heard, on a motion by Vice-President Pfannen seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried the time for Open Hearings was closed.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vice-President Pfannen seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting of September 2022 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 Vice-President Pfannen seconded by Mrs. Marte and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

Mid-Bergen	40,500.00
Positive Promotions	4,988.26
Tyco	2,916.66

**REPORTS**

**Legal and Finance**

Mrs. Marte stated there was nothing to report at this time.

**Medical**

Dr. Quiroz reported that the flu season is here and everyone should be looking to get vaccinated.

**Personnel**

On behalf of the Board, President Cheriyan welcomed Liz Cruz, new Public Health Nurse and wished her well. Ms. Cruz thanked the Board for the warm welcome and stated she is looking forward to a long relationship with the Health Department.

Vice-President Pfannen stated that Mr. Fedorko has arranged for Ms. Cruz to spend time with a Mid-Bergen public health nurse to help her get oriented since there's no supervisor at this time to assist her in our Health Department. Our Per-Diem nurses Liesl and Robyn will assist Mr. Cruz with all the different programs and clinics conducted by the Health Department. Mrs. Marte also welcomed Ms. Cruz and stated that the Board works as a team and is always available to assist Ms. Cruz in any capacity.

Vice-President Pfannen reported on the status of the part-time nurse position. Vice-President Pfannen stated that there was a candidate who accepted the part-time position but decided to go elsewhere. Vice-President Pfannen suggested that maybe the part-time position should be put on hold at this time while Ms. Cruz gets acclimated and becomes familiar with all the programs so that she can then train the part-time nurse. Additional per-diem nurses can be added to the per-diem pool at this time if Ms. Cruz feels it's necessary. The Board agreed.

**Publicity**

The Board of Health meeting was advertised on the Bergenfield Website, The Record and Cablevision.

The Moderna Covid Bivalent Booster and Flu Vaccine Clinic scheduled for Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm was advertised on the Borough Website.

President Cheriyan suggested changing the flyer to read Moderna Covid Bivalent Booster as opposed to Moderna Covid Booster.

**Liaison To Mayor & Council**

Council President Deauna welcomed Liz Cruz and wished her well. Council President Deauna stated that at the last Board of Health meeting he reported that the marijuana plant application had been approved. Council President Deauna stated that the information was premature, the application has not been approved at this time and wanted to apologize to the Board for the mistake.

**Legislature & Regulatory**

"No report"

**Written Reports of the Department**

Mr. Fedorko agreed with President Cheriyan regarding the change to the flyer to read Moderna Covid Bivalent Booster. Mr. Fedorko stated that he has worked with Liz Cruz in the past and welcomed her to the Bergenfield Health Department.

Mr. Fedorko spoke on Monkeypox and stated that as of October 6<sup>th</sup>, the United States has over 26,000 cases which is the most worldwide. Brazil has the second highest number with over 8,000 confirmed cases. Mr. Fedorko also stated that the vaccine for monkeypox is readily available at this time for people that meet the requirements.

Dr. Quiroz stated that the prominent symptoms most likely to occur with monkeypox is a rash, along with fever and headache. A discussion took place regarding what tests are taken to determine whether you have monkeypox or not and what facilities are testing for the disease.

President Cheriyan stated that the rate of transmission is extremely low and taking precautions is most important.

Mr. Fedorko also reported that there was a theory that if you had been vaccinated for smallpox, you had some immunity against monkeypox. After speaking to the New Jersey Department of Health Epidemiologist Mr. Fedorko was informed that theory has not confirmed.

Mr. Fedorko reported that COVID-19 cases in Bergenfield decreased later in the summer. Mr. Fedorko presented a chart showing decreasing number of COVID-19 cases in Bergenfield from November, 2021 to October, 2022. The case fatality rate for COVID in Bergenfield is 0.83% based on confirmed cases which are mostly the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.

A conversation took place regarding COVID contact tracing. Mr. Fedorko stated that contact tracing is minimal and being done, if necessary, by an outside organization.

President Cheriyan stated that the number of positive COVID cases is not accurate because people are testing home and not reporting it. President Cheriyan suggested to Mr. Fedorko that since COVID activity is low, he can eliminate the covid report/graph if he needs that time to focus on more current issues unless there's a significant change in cases. Mr. Fedorko responded that he agrees with what President Cheriyan is saying and appreciates the suggestion. Mr. Fedorko stated that it's a simple report and will continue to submit if the Board is ok with it. Vice-President Pfannen stated that she finds the graph informative and expects the numbers to change with the winter months ahead and the graph gives a good indication of where we stand.

Mr. Fedorko confirmed that a flu clinic is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm conducted by Walgreens being held at the Health Department. Mr. Fedorko stated that he has flu vaccines available for the uninsured and that Kelly Grippo will be available to assist if necessary. Vice-President Pfannen agreed that having Ms. Grippo there will be helpful since she's helped with clinics before and it will be Ms. Cruz's first clinic.

President Cheriyan asked Mr. Fedorko the possibility of getting the Covid Bivalent Booster vaccine for Bergenfield residents to store in the Health Department. Mr. Fedorko replied that he will discuss it with Ms. Cruz and if she is comfortable with the system, it can be addressed in November. Vice-President Pfannen stated that to her knowledge they were not distributing Covid Bivalent Booster vaccines to Local Health Departments. They were being sent only to main distribution centers. Mr. Fedorko stated he was attending a vaccinator meeting on Monday and will ask about the vaccine.

A short conversation took place regarding Polio. Mr. Fedorko stated that testing for Polio virus in the sewage water is a form of surveillance that was done in New York City, Rockland County and New Jersey. There was nothing found. He reported on questions being asked about getting the vaccine and stated that The New Jersey Department of Health does not recommend the booster because the threat is low to contract Polio in New Jersey. Another question asked was if a person had Polio in the 50's, should they get a Polio vaccine now and the answer was "yes" since there are different strains of the virus.

A motion was made by Vice-President Pfannen seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried that the Written September 2022 reports of the Department be accepted as written.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

"No correspondence"

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

"No unfinished business"

### **NEW BUSINESS**

"No new business"

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

Mrs. Williams reported that several home-bound Bergenfield residents have called the office inquiring about a nurse going to the house to administer the flu vaccine. Mrs. Williams spoke to Ms. Cruz and Ms. Cruz is willing to do that if the Board agrees. The Board agrees and Mr. Fedorko feels Ms. Cruz should have someone accompany her to the homes for safety reasons.

Vice-President Pfannen reported that the rabies clinic has always been held in the month of January. Since Covid, the clinic has been a drive-through clinic allowing the residents to keep their dog/cat in the car until it's their turn which the residents appreciate. There's been a conversation about moving the clinic from January to November or early December to avoid the risk of inclement weather and also to make it more comfortable for the staff that needs to be outside to register the residents. Mrs. Williams stated that although the rabies vaccines have already been given to towns that are scheduled for fall clinics, it's possible there will be enough left for Bergenfield to have the clinic earlier than January.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Vice-President Pfannen, seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Felicia Williams  
Registrar of Vital Statistics