

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

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-Absent

Also, present Mrs. Williams, Mr. Fedorko, Sue Barker and Sarah Bombino.
Arrived late: 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 Mr. Cabuhat, seconded by Vice-President Pfannen and carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting of May 2023 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 Dr. Quiroz, seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

Tyco	3,026.66
McKesson Medical	66.76

REPORTS

Legal and Finance

No Report due to the absence of Mrs. Marte

Medical

Nothing to Report.

Personnel

President Cheriyan stated that a resume was received from a nurse interested in being added to the Per-Diem pool. Vice-President Pfannen stated that she is familiar with the candidate and will reach out to schedule an interview with her.

President Cheriyan stated that the Board received a letter from Mrs. Williams stating that after 25 years of working for the Borough of Bergenfield, she will be retiring effective September 29, 2023.

On behalf of the Board, President Cheriyan congratulated Mrs. Williams on her upcoming retirement. President Cheriyan thanked Mrs. Williams for her dedication, her professionalism, her willingness to always help and her commitment to the Health Department for the last 25 years. President Cheriyan stated that although the Board will miss her and are saddened to see her go, they wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Publicity

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

Liaison To Mayor & Council

“Progress”

Legislature & Regulatory

Mr. Cabuhat congratulated Mrs. Williams on her upcoming retirement and wished her well. Mr. Cabuhat thanked Kayla for the link to NJ State Department of Health regarding Animal Control. Mr. Cabuhat stated it was very informative. Mr. Cabuhat reported at the last Board of Health meeting that he is concerned at the handling of feral cats in town and in general. Mr. Cabuhat informed the board that many towns have passed their own ordinances regarding stray dogs and cats that include TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return). Trap-Neuter-Return is successfully practiced in hundreds of communities. Cats are humanely trapped and taken to a veterinarian to be neutered, vaccinated and released. Mr. Cabuhat stated that trapping cats and bringing them to overpopulated shelters will result in the animal being euthanized. President Cheriyan stated that this is very concerning and inquired what steps can be taken from the Board of Health to assist in this situation.

Mrs. Williams stated that she spoke to a representative from Tyco (the company the Borough contracts with) and was told that they are obligated by law to hold an animal for 7 days during which time they attempt to locate the owner. After the 7 days, the animal is sent to different shelters for adoption. The only time an animal is euthanized is if the animal is aggressive and deemed dangerous. Mrs. Williams stated that a Tyco representative will be happy to attend the Board of Health meeting in September to answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Cabuhat feels that trapping the cats without the cats being taken to a veterinarian to be neutered and vaccinated will not solve the overpopulation of feral cats.

A conversation took place regarding several ways to address this situation. Mr. Cabuhat suggested drafting an ordinance to include TNR. Ms. Barker stated that in order to have any Animal Control Company enforce TNR, the town needs to have a feral cat ordinance. A feral cat ordinance would become the responsibility of the town to feed them and care for them.

Mr. Cabuhat stated that there are non-profit organizations that volunteer their time to enforce TNR programs and also animal hospitals that offer their services to help reduce the population.

Mr. Cabuhat's concern is that if the town isn't proactive in trying to reduce the population of feral cats, it will become uncontrollable.

Mr. Cabuhat also mentioned that Bergen County Animal Control is a no-kill shelter and would like to get more information. Mrs. Williams added that she reached out to the Director of Bergen County Animal Control but has not yet heard back.

It was the decision of the Board to have a Tyco representative attend the September Board of Health meeting to discuss the TNR program and answer any questions the Board may have before moving forward with amending the ordinance.

Written Reports of the Department

Mr. Fedorko introduced Sarah Bambino, Public Health Planner, hired under Enhancing Local Public Health Grant. Sarah Bambino stated that she looks forward to working with the Health Department and said that she is available for any program needs we may have and health education needs.

Mr. Fedorko reported that he will be speaking with our nurse Liz to discuss flu clinics in the fall. Mr. Fedorko reported that there have been some issues in town with unlicensed barber shops operating with unlicensed employees. This becomes a difficult situation because several barbers are trying to cooperate and get licensed but it's not a quick process.

Ms. Barker reported that most of the barbershops are now licensed. She reported that unfortunately some of the owners and some of the barbers are not and is working with them to comply. One shop in particular has been an issue for awhile and after the owner attempted to get licensed and to license the shop, he sold the business. Ms. Barker stated that she is now starting the process at the beginning with the new owner and barbers. Ms. Barker stated that there are three shops in town that have been issued summonses for not being licensed with no effect. A lengthy conversation took place to determine how to move forward with shops and barbers that are not licensed.

President Cheriyan stated that the Health Department will guide and support the businesses to the best of their ability in obtaining licenses but must enforce the rules and not allow them to operate until they are licensed to ensure the safety of our residents.

Mr. Fedorko thanked the Board for their support and their recommendation to not allow the shops to operate if the business and the employees are not licensed.

Ms. Barker stated that sanitary violations are being enforced and also stated that most of the shops are attempting to get their business licenses which takes some time. Summonses will continue to be issued to unlicensed barbers who are not making any attempt to get licensed.

Liz Cruz reported that The Mayor's Wellness ended on May 26th and was very successful. There was a total of 829 participants. Liz reported that there was a Child Health Clinic today, June 13th but only a few children attended. The clinic was moved from 4pm to 10am and the families are still adjusting to the time change. Liz stated that they will continue to conduct the clinic in the morning for the next few months but if that time proves to be a problem for the families, they may have to think about moving it back to 4pm. President Cheriyan and the Board agreed that Liz should determine what works best for the families moving forward.

Kayla reported that the grease trap inspections have been going well. She stated that there was a sewage backup back in May that happened in front of Republic 23. Although the issue was localized to the establishment, several nearby establishments in that area were revisited. One particular establishment that had issues earlier in the year and was given a notice of violations at the time was issued a summons for not complying. Kayla also stated that DPW is looking for a company to fully check South Washington and get an idea of establishments that are possibly contributing to the back-up.

Kayla stated that the food establishments that are visited on an annual basis have been in compliance with their grease trap. Any issues are reported to DPW and the reports received after have been positive.

Kayla reported that Family Fun Day was successful. All Vendors participating were inspected and in compliance. One vendor who has a food establishment in town was issued a summons for failure to obtain a One Day Special License for Memorial Day. That particular vendor did participate in Family Fun Day after Kayla spoke to him regarding the license and there was no issue from a safety point.

Kayla reported on a food establishment in town that has had on-going serious food violations for a couple of years. Several summonses have been issued but the problems have not been corrected. Kayla and Sue both feel that at this time a meeting needs to be scheduled with the Board of Health to discuss how to move forward. Sue stated that the violations are serious but there has been a slight improvement. Sue's recommendation at this point is to schedule a meeting between the owner and the Health Officer to discuss the violations. Sue will send the owner a letter stating that an informal meeting with the Health Officer is being scheduled and that if the violations aren't resolved by the following inspection, a meeting with the Board of Health will be scheduled to discuss possible license suspension.

A motion was made by Vice-President Pfannen, seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried that the written May 2023 reports of the Department be accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was sent to the Board of Health from Mrs. Williams notifying them of her upcoming retirement, effective September 29, 2023.

A letter was sent to the Board of Health with a resume from Ms. Pancho regarding being added to the Nurse's Per-Diem pool.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No "Unfinished Business"

NEW BUSINESS

1. Puppy Mill Ordinance

At the May Board of Health meeting, Vice-President Pfannen stated that she would like to revisit the Pet Shop Ordinance. Mrs. Williams stated that an ordinance was drafted back in 2016 by the Health Officer at the time but was never passed since the State of New Jersey was working on a similar ordinance that included what we wanted to enforce. Kayla Williams reported that the Ordinance in question was passed by the State of New Jersey.

2. Animal Control Contract 2024

Animal Control was discussed under "Legislature and Regulatory".

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

President Cheryian wished everyone a "happy and safe summer".

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Vice-President Pfannen, seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Felicia Williams
Registrar of Vital Statistics