

BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS
Board of Health Regular Meeting
MINUTES

January 21, 2020 – Immediately following Reorganization Meeting

CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

Chairwoman Layton called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building. The flag salute and reading of the open public meetings statement was previously conducted at the Reorganization meeting held immediately prior to this Regular meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Lawlor, Mr. Rinzler, Councilwoman Sheila Tweedie, and Marilyn Layton
Also Present: Joseph Sordillo, Board Attorney; and Samantha D’Antuono, Board Secretary, James Norgalis, Deputy Director and Himanshi Bhatt, Health Officer Somerset County Health Department
Absent: Mr. Barfuss, Mayor Paul J. Vallone, M.D.

REGULAR AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 22, 2019 – Reorganization

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Rinzler, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release.

January 22, 2019 – Regular Meeting

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Rinzler, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release.

BILL LIST

January 2020

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Rinzler, was unanimously carried that the bill list be approved.

SOMERSET COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Deputy Director James Norgalis provided a brief overview of municipalities in which the Somerset County Health Department services. Recently, discussions between Dr. Reddy and Deputy Director Norgalis have occurred to initiate what has been referred to as the “SEE” Committee (Standardization of Excellence and Efficiency) where chairpersons or their designee meet quarterly with the Somerset County Health Department to streamline communication regarding services applicable to multiple municipalities. The anticipated launch is March/April 2020.

Deputy Director Norgalis stated the National Public Health Accreditation Board will be having a site visit at the Somerset County Health Department as part of the evaluation of their application for national accreditation. Mr. Norgalis provided a website (PHABOARD.ORG) for more information regarding the process involved. He continued providing a brief description of the current structure within the Somerset County Department of Health.

Mr. Norgalis stated that in discussing contract negotiations with neighboring municipalities, the Somerset County Health Department was requested to consider services in the contract regarding reportable diseases. This service can be provided by the Somerset County Health Department instead of a third party. Mr. Norgalis advised the Board that the State of New Jersey holds the

Health Officer of record accountable if there is an incident not reported or not followed up on, Mr. Norgalis requested the Far Hills Board of Health take this into consideration while discussing future contract negotiations. He continued adding expansion of services are anticipating in the coming years while providing core environmental health education. Mr. Rinzler commended the Health Department on the LINCS reports stating they have been fantastic sources of education with useful information on multiple topics. General discussion ensued regarding elevated lead levels due to cultural exposure, food recalls and a Hepatitis outbreak in a different municipality in Somerset County. Mr. Norgalis stated a clinic was planned in approximately 5 hours regarding the recent Hepatitis outbreak, noting that there were zero subsequent transmissions from the incident. Brief discussion ensued regarding pediatric deaths due to influenza where Mr. Norgalis indicated there are approximately 30,000 to 35,000 deaths reported annually.

Mr. Lawlor queried as to how you know if you have the coronavirus where Mr. Norgalis advised due to the situation he would relay the information as it is received. He stated Dr. Reddy has been in contact with other Health Officers in the county to arrange a meeting to discuss that situation.

Health Officer Himanshi Bhatt provided an overview of establishment inspections stating all inspected facilities were satisfactory. A report of illness from last year as a result of eating at a food establishment in the Borough was resolved after the inspection the very next day. Ms. Bhatt continued her report indicating one of the vendors from the Far Hills Race Meeting at Moorland Farms was not licensed by the Somerset County Health Department. This vendor was responsible for approximately 4-5 tents however due to the numerous violations the vendor was not issued the license. The management team for the event was advised of the situation. They were notified that they would maintain responsibility if there was an issue as a result of allowing the vendor to participate.

VNA (PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE)

The 1st through 4th Quarter 2019 reports were provided by the VNA and reviewed by the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – *The Board of Health welcomes comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes.*

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to conduct, and on a motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Mr. Rinzler, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Samantha D'Antuono
Board of Health Secretary

APPROVED – 6/15/2020