

**FLORHAM PARK BOARD OF HEALTH**

**November 10, 2021**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Peter Kleban, Stanley Wisnewski, Marianne Nucci, Tana LaPlaca, Raymond Holmes, Thomas Michalowski, Kathleen Greene and Jo-Anna Finegan

**Also present:** Kristen Santoro (Council Liaison), Thomas Cantisano (Health Officer), Gina McConeghy (Registered Environmental Health Specialist- REHS), and Maryann Lang (Board of Health Secretary)

**Absent:** None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Ms. Lang took attendance, and stated that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mrs. Nucci made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting. Ms. LaPlaca seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

**Approval of Reports:**

Ms. LaPlaca made a motion to approve the reports which included: Vital Statistics monthly report for September and October; Pequannock Township monthly report for August and September; Pequannock Township year-to-date report; Pequannock Township inspection activity report for September and October. Mrs. Greene seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

**Communications:**

None

**Report from Health Department Staff:**

Mr. Cantisano provided a brief update on COVID 19. Five of the six regions, in New Jersey, are now showing moderate/low spread. The central region is showing high spread. The United States has followed the disease trend of the United Kingdom (UK), by about six to eight weeks. The UK wave was pretty severe, but is coming to an end. Ms. Santoro asked if it was a specific variant in the UK. Mr. Cantisano responded that it is still the Delta variant. Now there is a Delta Plus variant, which is thought to be more contagious. There was an increase in Delta Plus in the UK.

The United States has the potential for a spike this winter. However, the COVID booster is more available and the vaccine has been approved for five to eleven year olds. This may help to lessen cases. The vaccination is not foolproof in becoming infected. However, it does reduce the illness to mild/moderate symptoms, which is really the target effort of the vaccine. The Health Department will be offering a vaccination clinic to schools, in partnership with WalMart. The clinic will probably be held in the Florham Park Community Center.

The total number infected in Florham Park, since the pandemic began, is 932. The vaccination rate at the end of October was 64% of general population. For ages twelve and over it was 71%; 18 and over was 71%; thirty and over was 88%; 65 and over was 98%. Mr. Wisnewski asked how many residents died from the virus. Based on 1 to 1 ¼% mortality rate, it would be around nine people. Mr. Cantisano commented that local death statistics are not released, as it is a privacy issue.

**New Business:**Resignation of Board of Health member, Marianne Nucci:

With the resignation of Ms. Nucci, Ms. Finegan will move from “alternate” member to “full” member status.

New Alternate Board of Health member, Jay Rosania:

Ms. Edmunds made a motion to approve Mr. Rosania as the new alternate member. Dr. Holmes seconded the motion, and all members present voted “aye”. Mayor Taylor will be informed, and a formal appointment will take place in January.

2022 Pequannock Township Health Department budget:

Mr. Cantisano explained the figures for the public health services contract with Florham Park. As a result of forming public and private sector partnerships, and maximizing use of County and State resources, there will be a cash surplus. Florham Park will be receiving a refund. According to the chart provided, there is a -3.01% change to the municipal share of regional health budget costs for 2022. There will be a refund of \$6,966.

Proposed 2022 meeting dates:

The Board approved the 2022 meeting dates of February 9, April 13, June 8, September 14 and November 9. Ms. Lang asked the Board if they wanted to keep the start time of 7:00 pm, or change it to 6:30 pm. Members agreed to keep the start time of 7:00 pm. Ms. Lang asked the Board if they wanted to conduct the meetings in person or virtually. There was discussion, with no final decision. A decision will be made in the coming weeks, in time for the legal notice to be published.

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**Ratification of Licenses:**

The Board ratified licenses issued in September and October.

**Public Hearing - Privilege of the Floor:**

Mr. Kleban opened the meeting to the public at 7:22 pm. He stated that each person will be allocated four minutes to speak.

Maria Quigley, 6 Insley Road, Florham Park:

Ms. Quigley asked for confirmation that the vaccination clinic will not be held at the schools. Mr. Cantisano responded that the clinic would be held on Borough property, not at the schools.

Ms. Quigley asked the Board if it was aware that the NEA/NJEA is promoting a program to encourage teachers to discuss vaccinations with students. She mentioned an “App” named “Reach”, which would be used to collect data. Ms. Santoro responded that this is a matter for the Board of Education. Ms. Quigley responded that she feels it is also a matter for the Board of Health. Mr. Wisniewski asked if she went to the Board of Education with her concern. She responded that the union representative said no vaccination conversations would occur in the classroom. Mr. Kelban asked if we know that teachers are actually having this conversation with students. Ms. Quigley responded that she did not know, but will pursue this with the Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Quigley went on to state that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), are going to advocate the vaccine for five to eleven year olds. She listened to some of their meetings, and “was surprised by how little we know”. Ms. Quigley discussed a presentation on the CDC website, by Dr. Sarah Oliver, that estimates the benefits of the COVID vaccination. “With the death rate virtually zero and mild to no symptoms for most children, what is the rush to vaccinate? There is only one viewpoint, and that is to vaccinate the entire world. Many of the positive cases are among the vaccinated. It is a fallacy that this is a pandemic of the unvaccinated”.

**Public Hearing - Privilege of the Floor (continued):**

Maria Quigley, 6 Insley Road, Florham Park (continued):

Ms. Quigley asked the Board to visit the Vaccine Safety Research Foundation site. "Their research as of November 1, 2021, claims that there are more adverse events for the COVID vaccine than for all 70+ vaccines combined since tracking thirty years ago".

Ms. Quigley urged the Board to keep the Board of Health meetings in person.

Erin Szonyi, 44 Ridgedale Avenue:

Ms. Szonyi stated that she feels the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is not an accurate account of what is happening in the real world. She claimed that doctors are not reporting adverse events, to COVID vaccines, in a manner according to VAERS requirements. She went on to say that, "some doctors have said that they can't prove the adverse event is due to the vaccine. If properly educated, they would know their job is not to decide, but to simply report. Gov. Murphy, and his administration, should prioritize a task force to properly educate doctors of reporting responsibilities and understanding of the VAERS system". She distributed a flyer on the VAERS system to Board members.

Mr. Cantisano responded that physicians have all been educated of the requirements to report adverse events. Some of it may be discretionary, but we are not in a position to second guess the doctors. There is no oversight by the Board of Health on this matter.

The public portion of the meeting was closed at 7:44 pm.

**Adjournment:**

Ms. LaPlaca made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Ms. Finegan seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryann Lang, Board of Health Secretary