

FLORHAM PARK BOARD OF HEALTH

January 11, 2023

Minutes

Present: Peter Kleban, Stanley Wisnewski, Tana LaPlaca, Sabrina Edmunds, Raymond Holmes, Jo-Anna Finegan, Thomas Michalowski, Kathleen Greene and Jay Rosania

Also present: Thomas Cantisano (Health Officer), Gina McConeghy (Registered Environmental Health Specialist), Jean Vrablik (Public Health Nurse) and Maryann Lang (Board of Health Secretary)

Absent: Joshua Marchal (Council Liaison)

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:

Ms. LaPlaca made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2022 meeting. Ms. Finegan seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Approval of Reports:

Ms. Edmunds made a motion to approve the Registrar of Vital Statistics monthly report for October and November; Pequannock Township monthly report for October and November. Ms. LaPlaca seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Communications:

- Letter of resignation from Kathleen Greene
- Letter of resignation from Jo-Anna Finegan
- Email to Thomas Cantisano from Maria Quigley, and his response

Report from Health Department Staff:

Mr. Cantisano provided the following report:

The new COVID variant, XBB.1.5, is overtaking all other variants. It makes up seventy five percent of new transmissions, and is the most contagious variant yet. It has the ability to better evade immunity from prior infection, and vaccination. However, vaccination and prior infection helps to lessen the severity of illness. There has been an increase in hospitalizations and deaths, due to the sheer number of people contracting the virus.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus, RSV, is the worst it has been in the past forty years. The flu is the worst it has been in a decade. RSV, flu and COVID combined, are causing stress on hospitals.

COVID variants BF7 and BA5.2 are rapidly sweeping through China. This is probably due to the population not being exposed to the virus because of China's lock down. There are a lot of hospitalizations and deaths. It is not expected that this will affect Europe or the United States.

Information is being provided on precautions for RSV, flu, and COVID. RSV seems to have peaked. Flu season started early, so there is hope that it will peak early.

There have been cases of Ebola virus in Uganda. Pequannock had been monitoring three individuals that came from the affected area. The individuals checked in with the nurses twice per week, for the twenty one day incubation period. They did not develop Ebola. They were not Florham Park residents. The outbreak in Uganda has quieted down.

Mr. Wisnewski asked about the unregistered chicken coop cited in the November Pequannock Township report. Ms. McConeghy responded that the chickens have been relocated out of town.

Mr. Wisnewski asked about the conditional inspection rating for Hangry Joe in the November Pequannock Township report. Ms. McConeghy responded that the rating was due to very poor food handling, which has been corrected.

Mr. Wisnewski asked if all 2022 food establishment inspections have been completed. Ms. McConeghy responded in the affirmative.

New Business:

BOH vacancies

Board members Kathleen Greene and Jo-Anna Finegan have resigned. Mayor Taylor has been provided with information on two potential replacements: Dr. David Adinaro and Dr. Sonya Youngren.

BOH candidate recommendations

Dr. Adinaro and Dr. Youngren were recommended to fill the two vacancies on the Board. They will be formally appointed by the Mayor and Council on January 19, 2023.

2023 Budget

Ms. Edmunds asked if the Health Department budget includes animal control expenses. Ms. Lang responded that it does not. The animal control contract is paid through a different account.

Animal Control Services Contract

Animal Control Solutions has been selected to handle animal control services. Mr. Wisnewski asked if the company covers other towns. Mr. Cantisano responded in the affirmative. Ms. Lang added that she had contacted several of the surrounding towns that use this company, and they were pleased with the services provided.

Unfinished Business:

None

Ratification of Licenses:

The Board ratified licenses issued in November and December 2022.

Public Hearing - Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Kleban opened the meeting to the public at 7:16 pm. He stated that each person will have up to a maximum of four minutes to speak.

Maria Quigley:

Ms. Quigley stated that she received Mr. Cantisano's response to her email, and had additional questions. However, due to the time limit, she stated she would email them and they can be shared with the Board.

Ms. Quigley claimed that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continue to withhold data regarding adverse events from the COVID 19 vaccines. She stated that a Freedom of Information Act Request has provided information regarding adverse events reported during the period of December 2020 through July 2022. She added there were safety signals for the MRNA COVID vaccines. She suggested that the Board read the report.

Ms. Quigley stated that the CDC created the "V Safe" smartphone app to collect information from patients after being vaccinated. She said that the Informed Consent Action Network sued to get data from the system. Their claim is that out of the ten million people registered, 7.7% required medical care after vaccination.

Public Hearing - Privilege of the Floor (continued):

Ms. Quigley questioned why upon vaccination for COVID 19, vaccinations for adults should be tracked through the New Jersey Immunization Information System. She feels it is private health information. At the present time, one has to opt out of the registry.

Ms. Quigley expressed her concern about schools possibly returning to masking.

Ms. Quigley advised the Board that she will forward links for the information she presented this evening.

Mark Taylor:

Mayor Taylor wished everyone a Happy New Year. He expressed his thanks to Kathleen Greene and Jo-Anna Finegan, for their years of service on the Board of Health.

The public portion of the meeting was closed at 7:23 pm.

Adjournment:

Ms. LaPlaca made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm, Ms. Greene seconded the motion, and all members present approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryann Lang
Board of Health Secretary