

MINUTES
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING
of the
SUMMIT BOARD OF HEALTH
Monday Evening – January 24, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Summit City Hall
Janet Whitman Community Room, 2nd Floor

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Ms. Mauro, Board Secretary.

Ms. Mauro read the following Meeting Notice: “Adequate notice of this Meeting has been provided by the Secretary of the Board of Health by the preparation of the Annual Notice of Meeting Dates which set forth the date, time and place of this Meeting and by properly posting such notice and forwarding the notice to those designated newspapers and the persons requesting Meeting notices.”

PRESENT ON ROLL CALL: Mr. John Staunton; Dr. Jill Rathyn; Dr. Robert Slama; Dr. Richard Berardi; and Ms. Milissa Aronson.

ALSO PRESENT: Megan Avallone, Health Officer; N. Gayle Mauro, Registrar/Board Secretary; George Kornias, REHS; Bridget Colendenski, PHN; and Susan Hairston, Liaison.

ABSENT ON ROLL CALL: Mrs. Barbara Plyer and Ms. Hermelinda Robinson.

Ms. Mauro asked for a nomination for President. Mr. Staunton made a motion to nominate Dr. Richard Berardi, seconded by Dr. Rathyn. All members present were in favor of the nomination and Dr. Berardi was unanimously elected President of the Board of Health for 2022.

Dr. Berardi, President, called for nominations for Vice-President. Dr. Berardi made a motion to nominate Dr. Jill Rathyn, seconded by Dr. Slama. All members present were in favor of the nomination and Dr. Rathyn was unanimously elected Vice-President of the Board of Health for 2022.

The following individuals made public comments as follows:

Mr. Irwin Miller, Knob Hill Drive, voiced his concerns over his three-year old child having to wear a mask in daycare and the effects he believes this is having on children. Also, families having to deal with finding other daycare options at their own expense, while still paying full tuition at the daycare that continues to experience closures due to COVID.

Mr. Charles D’Angelo, Warwick Road, voiced his concerns over his belief that the current daycare rules are unreasonable, including masking the children and closing for quarantining purposes every time a child tests positive for COVID, even if asymptomatic.

Mr. Miller and Mr. D’Angelo asked the Board if they can address these issues and, as a Board, issue a public statement whether they agree with these mandates issued by Governor Murphy, or not.

Discussion took place.

In response, Ms. Avallone explained daycare centers are under the jurisdiction of the NJ Division of Children and Families, not the local Board of Health. President Berardi added that the Board of Health did not create the mandated guidelines but must adhere to them.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 22, 2021—Mr. Staunton made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Ms. Aronson, and unanimously approved by all members present.

REVIEW OF BILLS January 2022—Mr. Staunton made a motion to approve the bill list totaling \$9,135.92, seconded by Dr. Rathyn. Roll call vote taken: Mr. Staunton—Aye; Dr. Rathyn—Aye; Dr. Slama—Aye; Dr. Berardi—Aye; and Ms. Aronson—Aye.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REPORTS – Report reviewed by George Kornias, REHS.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE'S REPORT – Report reviewed by Bridget Colendenski, PHN, which included COVID clinics, home visits providing vaccinations, and two lead investigations taking place in the same household.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Ms. Avallone stated the COVID rate of transmission is 0.64 which is down from two weeks ago, with a positivity rate of 15.37%. Sixteen million doses of the vaccine have been given in New Jersey. There have been four infant deaths due to COVID since Christmas, and ten new cases of Multi Inflammatory Syndrome in children, six of these children being hospitalized.

A COVID vaccination clinic was held at Summit High School, resulting in one hundred twenty-one vaccinations being given. The Health Department continues to do home visits for residents who are home bound or cannot attend a vaccination clinic. Ms. Avallone will continue to send weekly COVID updates.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution 1-2022—Re-appoint N. Gayle Mauro, Registrar of Vital Statistics (effective 03/29/2022-03/28/2025)—Mr. Staunton made a motion to Re-appoint N. Gayle Mauro, Registrar of Vital Statistics, seconded by Dr. Berardi and unanimously approved by all members present.

Susan Hairston, Council Liaison, introduced herself and expressed her gratitude to Ms. Avallone for all she does, and the Board for taking their time to volunteer.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a motion by Dr. Slama was made at 7:57 P.M., seconded by Mr. Staunton, and unanimously approved by all members present.

Respectfully submitted,


N. Gayle Mauro, Board Secretary