



Public Health
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**TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY
BOARD OF HEALTH
Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**7:30 PM
February 14th, 2024
Meeting Location – Meeting Chambers**

“It is the intention of the Board to conclude this meeting by 9:30pm. Any Agenda item not considered by 9:30pm will be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting”

I. OPENING STATEMENT – Adequate notice of the meeting as required by sections 3(d) and 4(a) of the Open Public Meeting Act has been provided to the public and filed with the Township Clerk.

II. BOARD MEMBERS – Dr. McGeary (X), Dr. Grayson (X) Dr. Newman (X), Dr. Saraiya (X), Dr. Faisal (X), Dr. Sharma (X)

Alternate 1: Dr. O’Mara (X)

Alternate 2: Dr. Mohan (X)

HEALTH OFFICER – Devangi Patel - X

STAFF SECRETARY – Jennifer Foster - X

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON – Dennis Ahn - X

ADVISOR – Dr. Mandelbaum - A

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

The Board of Health welcomes and encourages input from the public.

Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to bring any new business to the Board for a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments or questions are to be directed to the board before you make your comment, please state your name, address and subject matter. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding department of health employees and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages references to specific individuals. While directing your comments or questions to the board, please understand that the public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question and answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the board. The board president may need to refer an issue to the health officer representing the department of health if the particular

issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command with the department of health before coming to the board for a response.

Responses may be provided at the end of this session. There are times when comments and questions will require additional information gathering before a response is provided.

We thank you for your understanding and respect the rules of order. We open the agenda to and welcome public comment at this time.

No Public Comment at the February Meeting.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed hereunder are considered routine in nature and will be approved in one motion. Any member request that an item(s) be removed for separate consideration:

A. MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Health Department Monthly Report – February 2024
2. Communicable Disease Report – February 2024
3. Animal Control Report – February 2024

- B. **MINUTES APPROVED:** The minutes of the regular meetings of the Board of Health held on January 10th 2024

Motion to Approve: Dr. Newman **Seconded:** Dr. Faisal

V. Public Service Electric & Gas Company (Holding Tank) Block: 4001 Lot: 28 161 Trent Place –

Kristen Sargent Montgomery Township REHS provided an overview of request by PSE&G.

A substation is slated for installation on the property. Currently, subdivision is required for the specific area intended for use. To facilitate the subdivision process, they will need to present before the Planning Board for Treatment Works Approval, as the current soil conditions are unsuitable for a septic system. PSE&G proposes the installation of a permanent holding tank, subject to approval by the NJDEP. Following approval, the Board of Health will need to provide their endorsement. However, PSE&G is currently seeking approval to advance and submit their application to the Planning Board, with assurance that the Board of Health will endorse it upon submission.

Kathy Hering consultant for PSE&G agreed with Ms. Sargent's comments to the board regarding their request.

During the discussion, the board members posed several questions and sought Ms. Sargent's perspective. Ms. Sargent expressed confidence that there should be no obstacles and indicated her willingness to approve in accordance with the staff recommendations.

Motion to approve to move to the Planning Board for approval.

Motion: Dr. Newman Seconded: Dr. Sharma

All in Favor: Aye

VI. Health Officer Comments

Staffing Updates:

Joslynn Brown, our part-time Public Health Nurse, has transitioned to a full-time role. Joslynn has been assisting with communicable diseases and outbreaks. The part-time position will soon be posted as Joslynn adjusts to her new responsibilities.

The Rutgers Student-Nursing Supervisor has expressed interest in collaborating with the Health Department. Once finalized, Ms. Patel will present it to the board.

The part-time Local Health Outreach Coordinator position has been posted. This grant-funded role will continue until June 30th, 2024, and will aid in streamlining outreach activities.

Municipal Alliance:

The Health Department will host "Beat The Winter Blues" on Saturday, February 24th, in the Council Chambers under the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Collaborating with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, presenters and attendees will include:

- A Montgomery Township resident who is a Professional Counselor
- A presenter from "Healthy Mind Healthy Body Indicative"
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension discussing Nutrition's impact on mental health
- Youth Action Board students
- Partnering with the Montgomery Library for a Mental Health Display
- The Boy and Girl Scouts expressing interest in tabling

- The Winter Framers Market will be in the Library Meeting Room
- Prevention Resources focusing on Substance Abuse Prevention

The Alliance is planning significant events for May Mental Health Awareness Month, details to follow. Mayors Wellness Campaign Programming Events are all listed on the website, including "Beat the Winter Blues," American Heart Health Month, and collaborations with Robert Wood Johnson and Healthier Somerset Partners. Skillzcare Pharmacy will vaccinate the uninsured; however, only flu vaccines are currently available. The Health Department is seeking partners to assist with vaccinating the homebound population against COVID. Despite commercialization, COVID vaccine distribution has been challenging. Ms. Patel requests board members to reach out if they encounter willing collaborators for COVID vaccine distribution.

A former board member has expressed interest in discussing ongoing COVID issues, particularly among seniors and vulnerable populations. COVID outbreaks persist in healthcare facilities and senior living communities. The Health Department maintains a list of providers offering COVID boosters on the website. Collaboration with local pharmacies, including Skillzcare Pharmacy, has facilitated fall clinics. Radon Test Kits are available for Radon Awareness Month, acquired through grant assistance secured by Kristen Sargent, at no cost to the township.

VII. New Business

Dr. McGeary wanted to share with the board that she and Dr. Grayson would be meeting with Ms. Patel and Township Administrator Lori Savron and some of her staff to be collaborative on some of the resource concerns we have. Dr. McGeary had a chance to meet with the Commissioner of Health at a meeting the past week at her day job and said one of the things came up were audits at health departments. The Montgomery Health Department last had an audit around 2019 and it maybe something we need to think about doing again with new administration and making sure we are meeting our obligations.

There will be a Finance and Budget meeting being held on the 27th from 6:00pm-7:00pm should you want to attend please let Dr. McGeary know in advance as we can not have too many people that it would be considered a quorum.

Township Committee Liaison Dennis Ahn added a recap with the Administrator that we make sure we can find the space for interns and additional help and also look into funding the Township

Committee will be talking and working on the budgetary needs of the town.

Dr. Saraiya voiced her concerns on drop offs at Montgomery High School. She has witnessed numerous near misses of pedestrians being hit crossing. Dr. McGeary would like to follow up with advisor Dr. Mandelbaum regarding the situation.

Mr. Ahn brought up the water main break that affected homes and businesses a few months back. There is an issue with the water main and it caused business to close and be fined for staying open. Mr. Ahn would like to draft a letter with the Board of Health's assistance to American Water to replace the line, as it is old and may break again or to supply fresh water to those that are affected as 24hrs is a long time for those to be without fresh water.

Adjournment- Having no further business to discuss the meeting will now adjourn at 8:22pm
Motion to adjourn was moved by Dr. Grayson seconded by Dr. Newman