



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

**7:30 PM
April 10th 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 (A), Dr. Faisal (A), 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 - X

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 April 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 – March 2024
2. Communicable Disease Report – March 2024
3. Animal Control Report – March 2024

- B. **MINUTES APPROVED:** The minutes of the regular meetings of the Board of Health held on February 14th 2024. Note: March Meeting was canceled.

Motion to Approve: Seconded:

V. Health Officer Comments

Health Education Shared Services Agreements with Princeton-Princeton successfully transitioned there grant funded staff to permanent positions. There will no longer be a need for a Health Educator Shared Service Agreement with Montgomery Township.

Currently the Health Officer is collaborating with Hillsborough Township Social Services for a Mobile Food Pantry Van. This is a State Leap Grant that encourages shared services. One of the stipulations of the grant is to partner with another town. This would be at no cost to Montgomery Township. Collectively it would be decided on what the van will be used for. The van will be outfitted as well for mobile vaccinations and outreach. With Hillsborough expanding their Social Services this also gives Montgomery a better look into how to structure and expand in the future.

Staffing Updates – Bryanna Long will start April 17th. She is a PT Graduate Public Health Nurse. We are currently still interviewing for the Health Educator position.

Mayors Wellness Campaign Updates – Staff is currently planning for Mental Health Awareness Month in May while it is something that is typically done as Municipal Alliance work. Lori Huff the Municipal Alliance chair has been working with the school district on an event “Screens and Stress: Understanding the digital impact on children’s wellbeing” This event will be held on May 2nd at 6:30-8:30 at the Upper Middle School. Once it is finalized it will be shared.

The Township has scheduled a Constituency Health and Wellness Fair on May 29th here at the Municipal Building have requested the Health Department to be involved with coordinating the Health and Wellness Fair. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman will be speaking for the Townhall portion of the event after the wellness fair.

This year, our agenda will encompass a range of organizations catering to veterans, as well as those offering health and social services, complemented by valuable health and wellness resources.

Spring Fling – The Health Department will be present for tabling and educational activities. Event is schedule for May 4th 2:00-4:00pm. There will be Color and Color Free Zones.

Last year, there were concerns regarding lead poisoning. Therefore, we collaborated with our partners in childhood lead poisoning prevention. We successfully acquired a lead analyzer to test the powder, and the results came back negative.

During the meeting, it was noted that the Health Department will use the spring fling event as an opportunity to raise awareness about lead poisoning. Jen and Kristen, represented the department, at an event on March 30th for Safety Day. At the event, residents brought in various items such as old toys, spices, and dishes, which were all tested using the lead analyzer.

Youth Leadership Council – Varsha from the Youth Leadership Council introduced herself. She is currently visiting all boards

to see where her interest aligns. Varsha has a strong interest in public health measures.

Body Art – The town has a Body Art establishment that will be opening soon. It is not the same as a tattooing but, is permanent cosmetics. Examples include microblading. The Township does not have a current ordinance for Body Art so it will be following the state's ordinance by reference. The attorney is reviewing it at the moment. The ordinance will be introduced at the May meeting. Kristen Sargent, REHS will be doing the inspections and will attend the May meeting to speak to the board on how it works and answer any questions they may have. A Body Art checklist will also be included in the May packet as well.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There have been many calls coming in regarding a homeless person being seen in or around Shoprite. The Health Department can not go in and remove this person without any health code violations. Ms. Patel wanted the Board to be aware of the situation and she has advised the staff to let callers know of the Health Department's role and requirements. Should residents come across any person being destructive or violent we recommend reaching out to the Montgomery PD and/or speak to a manager in the store.

Dr. Newman discussed a recent incident involving a distressed cat brought into her facility. Despite efforts to locate its owner through social media and outreach to Animal Control Solutions and SAVE, no suitable resolution was found. Ultimately, the individual who initially brought the cat in decided to keep it. Dr. Newman raised concerns about the protocol for handling similar situations in the future, particularly regarding stray animals. Ms. Patel will review the contract and follow up with ACS and SAVE on protocols should this come up again.

Dr. McGeary wanted to update the board she is still waiting to hear back from the Township Administrator on the Salary Ordinance from initial contact in February. Dr. McGeary has sent follow up requests. Her concern, the union has received a 2.5% increase. Dr. McGeary had questions around equity and what can be done with inflation as it has been much higher than the 2.5% and economists are not meeting inflation. The board can offer an inflation adjustment but, the department does have union and non-union members so this causes a

disparity, When Dr. McGeary hears more, she will advise the board.

Township Committee Liaison Dennis Ahn stated this should be made a priority.

Traffic concern follow up at the High School first mentioned by Dr. Saraiya – The principal has brought it to the attention of the Safety Officer and the Police Department and it has been addressed with more officers at school monitoring.

Water Main Concern Follow-up – Ms. Patel raised Mr. Ahn's concerns with both the Engineering Department and the American Water Company. They acknowledged that water main breaks are not uncommon, but the current plan for water main replacements in Montgomery only includes Colfax and Rolling Hill Roads, scheduled for spring. Full replacement of the 206 water main is not currently planned due to the significant expenses involved in terms of manpower and financing. However, they are open to exploring this option further. Mr. Ahn would like a follow up should it break from now to then what the plan would be with replacing it.

Local Assistance Board – Mr. Ahn shared with the new Mobile Food Pantry Van they are trying to figure out families and seniors with food insecurities and who are struggling with the cost of food inflation. How can we prepare to help them and start a committee of members to make sure the families in our town are being taken care of?

The board briefly discussed Dr. Wolfson's petition for later school start times. Dr. Mandelbaum referenced the tier times in the busing schedules to the members and his thoughts on how it potentially could be resolved.

ADJOURNMENT- Having no further business to discuss the meeting will now adjourn at 8:34pm
Motion to adjourn was moved by Dr. Grayson seconded by Dr. Newman