

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM

President Cabuhat stated that notice of this meeting held via Zoom was posted on the Bergenfield Website, sent by e-mail to the Record and Cablevision in compliance with the "The Open Public Meetings Act". It was placed on one Bulletin board in the Municipal Building and placed on file in the Borough Clerk's office.

ROLL CALL

Dr. Cheriyan
Mrs. Pfannen
Mr. Cabuhat
Ms. Aquino
Mrs. Plan

Also, present AnneMarie DeLaCruz, Kayla Williams, Susan Barker, Jim Fedorko, and guest Scott Hiler

OPEN HEARINGS

Mrs. Stanton asked Dr. Cheriyan if there is a mental crisis is 911 the number to call and not PES. She also inquired if Covid and Flu Home test kits are available at the Health Department and Dr. Cheriyan responded that these kits are no longer available. Nurse Liz responded to Ms. Stanton and stated that the Police Dept is in the process of collaborating with the Chief regarding a mental health screener. Nurse liz stated she will update the Board once she has additional information.

President Cabuhat welcomed resident Scott Hiler. Mr. Hiler, had questions regarding fumes from wood burning stoves and fireplaces. Mr. Hiler stated that he has worked with Ms. Sue Barker regarding this issue in the past and her recommendation was for him to come to a Board meeting to express his concerns regarding the Fumes in his neighborhood. Mr. Hilner feels that the fumes are constant and offensive, he inquired about any Ordinances that were in place to control this issue. Mr. Hiler asked if there was anything that the Health Department can do to regulate this or if the Health Department can make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council. He also said that he is surprised that knowing of the hazard this has not been regulated. Ms. Barker mentioned that the Fire Chief and Fire Inspector have been helpful and they have gone out to see if the fire pits are ok. She said that Bergenfield does not have an Ordinance that covers outdoor fire pits or smoke but the Ordinance is just for open flames so unfortunately it is not something that the Health Dept. or the Fire Dept can enforce.

Dr. Cheriyan said it was a great suggestion and that Bergenfield does have building codes for chimneys but not for fire pits. Ms. Barker mentioned that she had given Mr. Hiler a phone number for the State, so he can contact and report this issue as air pollution. Mr. Fedorko explained in detail that banning outdoor fire pits will mean that outdoor barbeques will also have to be banned to which will be a heavy lift and hard to be enforced. Mrs. Pfannen stated that the Fairlawn Ordinance can be read. Dr. Cheriyan, stated that the ordinance/regulation is vague and it does not specify the real definition of air pollution. Mrs. DeLaCruz mentioned that the Borough of Bergenfield has a NJ Water and Air Pollution prohibition in the Ordinance 344-23. Mr. Hiler stated that he will continue to review the different town ordinance and get back to the Board in the future.

There being no one else present who wished to be heard on a motion made by Mrs. Pfannen and seconded by Mrs. Aquino the time for Open Hearings was closed.

MINUTES

President Cabuhat thanked Annemarie for the minutes. A motion was made by Mrs Pfannen, seconded by Mrs. Aquino, and carried that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2025 be accepted as written.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Mrs. Delacruz stated that on behalf of President Cabuhat, Purchase Orders have been signed by Mrs. Delacruz and submitted. A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen and seconded by Mrs. Aquino and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

Dell Marketing	\$	625.56
WB Mason	\$	157.53
WB Mason	\$	201.84

REPORTS**Legal and Finance**

Mrs. Pfannen said there was nothing specific to report other than to continue to monitor that the funds of the department are used efficiently.

Medical

“No Report”

Personnel

“No Report”

Publicity

The Board of Health meeting was advertised on the Bergenfield Website, The Record and Cablevision.

Liaison To Mayor & Council

“No Report”

Legislature & Regulatory

“No Report”

Written Reports of the Department

Mr. Fedorko thanked the Board members for volunteering. He referred to his report and mentioned that at the beginning of the year he would like to speak about the diseases in Bergenfield and the causes of death. Mr. Fedorko stated that there are about 144 different communicable diseases that are tracked and these are monitored by Nurse Liz. Mr. Fedorko, mentioned that there are 31 food borne illnesses. The process for investigation is that Nurse Liz calls those affected to find out if they were food handlers or how they contracted the disease. He read investigations from his reports saying two cases were immunocompromised, three cases had traveled to Bangladesh, Colombia and Philippines they presented symptoms upon return. Mr. Fedorko also discussed Drug overdoses and referred to his report.

Mrs. Pfannen inquired if Mr. Fedorko was aware of the new Opioid mentioning that she was reading an article on it she stated that it was was more deadly than Fentanyl. The distribution of Narcan kits was also discussed.

Nurse Liz stated that the Municipal Alliance is having an event at the Middle School about Drug Prevention. Nurse Liz mentioned the CAD reports in 2024 which had 93 cases through the Police Department and 12 overdoses for mid-December. Mr. Fedorko referred to his reports that were shared.

Ms. Williams referred to her Annual and January reports. In reference to her Annual Report, she mentioned that a large part of the report was licensing apart from dog and cat licenses that Mrs. Delacruz and Ms. Lesnak take care of the Daycare, Cosmetology, Vending Machine, Food retail establishment licenses, special event permits. Ms. Williams stated that all the establishments were licensed in 2024 which was a big difference from 2023. Ms. Williams referenced 5 new restaurants that were licensed and also 6 new cosmetology establishments. She also mentioned that 24 of the establishments received initial satisfactory which was more than half for this year, there were 7 conditionals this year whereas in 2023 there were 14. Ms. Williams thanked Sue for being on top of the inspections and spot checks. She confirmed that there is alot more compliance than there was in 2023. The Health Department took in 17 Special Events applications of the 17, 2 applications were rejected there were a total of 59 vendors. Ms. Williams stated that there has been alot of collaboration with the Building Department for high weeds and grass.

Ms. Barker briefly mentioned the State recalls for the energy drinks sold at the gas stations and magic mushroom products which was recalled by the FDA. Ms. Williams stated that there were 6 establishments that sold to minors. One pleaded guilty and warning letters were sent out 4 others.

Nurse Liz mentioned school audits were moving forward, to make sure that they are in compliance with the vaccines. She also mentioned that the Mayor's wellness is ongoing.

A motion was made by Vice- President Plan seconded by Mr. Pfannen and carried that the written reports for February 2025 of the Department, be accepted as written

CORRESPONDENCE

"No Report"

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Cabuhat stated that the TNR program will tabled until the new contract with Animal Control is started.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Dela Cruz mentioned that Kayla has been working with Emma from the Attorney's Office to finalize the Food License fees. Mrs. Delacruz tabled the 1st Reading of the Food License Fees Ordinance until the March Board meeting. Mr. Fedorko asked when the fees were last updated in Bergenfield and Kayla stated that it was in 2017. Mrs. Pfannen reiterated that all fee adjustments should be done every three years.

Mrs. DelaCruz stated a document referenced as "Hypertension" was submitted at the request of President Cabuhat. President Cabuhat discussed that hypertension/heart disease is the number one cause of death especially in Bergenfield. He further stated that the health dept would like to implement a program to educate patients on screenings. Mr. Fedorko stated that he will be providing 50 blood pressure cuffs that can be used for the participants in the program. The blood pressure cuffs will be purchased with grant money and Nurse Liz will give 50 people in groups of 10 the monitors to encourage them and provide guidance on how to use them properly. Mr. Fedorko also mentioned that there is a Chronic disease self-management class available, and Nurse Liz would have to do that training to be certified. Mr. Fedorko mentioned that Englewood offers the class, but the instructor will be unavailable for 3 months. Mrs. Pfannen also mentioned Diabetes and if a lecture series can be introduced as well.

Mrs. DeLaCruz mentioned that those without health insurance will benefit from the free blood pressure cuffs. Vice-President Plan made a motion to close new business seconded by Mrs. Pfannen

VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Delacruz mentioned that the Health Department brought in \$ 63000.00 for 2024 food licensing, fines, dog/ cat licenses and certified copies. Mrs. DeLaCruz stated that \$ 50,000 was brought in 2023. Mr. Fedorko asked Mrs. DelaCruz where the extra revenue came from, she stated that the extra revenue came from money that was reimbursed for vaccines and supplies by Mid Bergen.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Vice Vice-President Plan and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Annemarie DelaCruz
Registrar of Vital Statistics*