

The meeting was called to order at 7:34PM

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- Absent  
Mrs. Plan

Also, present AnneMarie Delacruz, Susan Barker, Jim Fedorko, Liz Cruz, Pam Lesnak and residents.

### OPEN HEARINGS

A discussion took with Bergenfield resident Mr. Scott Hiler who stated that he is still having issues with his neighbors who are constantly using a wood burning stove to barbeque. Mr. Hiler mentioned that the smoke is 15 feet away from his window. He stated that he has reached out to several agencies regarding the issue and he has not heard back. Mr. Fedorko asked for his address and stated that he will be driving over to his home during the meeting to investigate the issue.

Mr. Hiler stated that Fairlawn currently has an ordinance and Bergenfield should think about implementing the same ordinance. Sue Barker mentioned that Mr. Hiler has been complaining about this issue for months and the county has visited his residence about a dozen times and she reiterated that under the New Jersey's statute all environmental complaints are handled by NJDEP and the county and Municipalities no longer have jurisdiction over environmental smoke complaints. Municipalities can issue their own ordinances for firepits and outdoor barbecues but that is something the Board can discuss.

President Cabuhat mentioned that he emailed the Fire Chief who had told President Cabuhat that Mr. Hiler could call at any time and he will explain what needs to be done. However, Mr. Hiler mentioned that he has called the Fire Chief many times and has not received any assistance from him.

Sue Barker suggested an education campaign to inform the public of the danger of wood burning stoves since the health dept cannot prohibit residents from using their barbecues. Mrs. DeLaCruz said she could have an insert to this effect in the Quarterly Bulletin. The Board agreed to discuss other options.

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

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan, seconded by Mrs. Pfannen, and carried that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 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 Dr. Cheriyan and seconded by Mrs. Pfannen and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

Amazon Services	\$	44.49
Amazon Services	\$	36.06
Amazon Services	\$	166.04
Cooper Pest Control	\$	1,174.08
NJ Local Board of Health	\$	95.00
Mckesson	\$	276.51
RR Donnelly	\$	319.50
Safe Sitter	\$	72.00
WB Mason	\$	49.37

**REPORTS****Legal and Finance**

"No Report"

**Medical**

Dr. Cheriyan stated the outbreak of measles has been in the headlines and confirmed that Our areas are safe. He also mentioned that the adults MMR vaccine is not covered by Medicare. Mr. Fedorko mentioned that about two months ago there was a program in Bergen County for free adult vaccines. Nurse Liz mentioned a mobile clinic that will cover vaccines for adults with no health Insurance.

**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**

A discussion took place regarding a repeat dog bite at the Ivy Lane apartments. Susan Barker and Kayla Williams who investigated the multiple unprovoked dog bites, contact Animal Cruelty Cruelty officer of the county and Detective Dimick of the Bergenfield Police Department. Detective Dimick contacted the owner of the dog. It was decided by the resident that she would surrender the dog to Bergen County. Susan Barker explained that Animal Control keeps the dog for seven days when the dog is assessed and then decides if they can re home the dog. It was confirmed that the owner of the dog is charged \$50 to take the dog.

Susan Barker discussed the complaint that was sent to Mr. Fedorko from the NJ Department of Health from a Bergenfield resident about Restaurant El Carratero. The resident complained about unsanitary conditions. Susan Barker investigated the issue and spoke to the owner who agreed to better supervise his staff. A notice of compliance was sent to the owner requiring him to have all the staff attend a food handling class before the next licensing period. The owner agreed to this. Susan Barker mentioned Qwali island and stated that the owner voluntarily closed the establishment since they did not have a Food Safety Manager.

Mr. Fedorko mentioned that he had finished with the smoke investigation he stated he did not witness smoke in the area and he met with Mr. Hilner. Mr. Fedorko also investigated another area and stated he did not see any indication of burning smoke. President Cabuhat thanked Mr. Fedorko for this report.

Nurse Liz discussed her report and stated that there were 6 Bergenfield residents exposed to measles. They were all negative except for one patient who opted to quarantine for 21 days she confirmed that this patient attends the adult day program at Sunshine Day Care. Nurse Liz mentioned she had spoken with the Nurse at Sunshine Adult Day Care and told her that this patient should not return until April 18th. Nurse Liz confirmed that she will do a follow up with this patient on a daily basis. Nurse Liz gave an update on the Mayor's Wellness she stated that there will be a presentation at the Senior Center with Prosecutor Mark Musella regarding Scams targeting Seniors. She also mentioned the Adult Picnic at Memorial Park in June and she thinks he can do a presentation there as well. Mrs. Pfannen inquired if there are any interns who can help with the Zumba and line dancing for the Mayor's Wellness Program that will not require a nurse to be there. Nurse Liz stated she had spoken to the per diem nurses regarding attending.

Nurse Liz stated that the blood pressure program will kick off on May 4th. she thanked Mr. Fedorko for the 50 blood pressure cuffs. Vice-President Plan asked Mrs. DeLaCruz about the person who was self-isolating with measles and how he is being monitored, Nurse Liz explained in detail how this patient is being monitored. Mr. Fedorko referred to his report on the Grant funding and stated that mid Bergen received over one million dollars for the grant, however the Federal Government cut that on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and the plan is to continue with the funding until June 30<sup>th</sup>,2025 which is the end date. He referred to the email about the meeting that will be held in a couple of weeks at which t time it will be determined regarding increasing salaries or layoffs or a combination of both.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Vice President Plan and carried that the written reports for March 2025 be accepted as written.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. DeLaCruz stated that an email was received from the State regarding the restaurant El Carretero. Susan Barker discussed this matter further.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Cabuhat stated the TNR program is still under review.

New Business

**Ordinance No. 25-001**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND UPDATE CHAPTER 344-26 OF BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, NEW JERSEY, ENTITLED "SANITARY CODE"**

WHEREAS the Board of Health recognizes the need to update Bergenfield’s licensing and permit fee schedule for retail food establishments to address the rising costs of regulatory compliance, inspections, and operational demands, and to ensure a comprehensive fee schedule that reflects current economic conditions, regulatory requirements, and the increasing complexity of food safety compliance; and

WHEREAS, the fees, unchanged since 2017, require adjustment due to the economic impacts of COVID-19, inflation, and increased complexity of retail food establishments, including mixed-use restaurants (e.g., bakeries and grocery stores, dual establishments) and mobile food vendors, and increased applications of specialized food truck events, requires additional time for inspections and regulatory compliance.

**MOTION OFFERED by: Mrs.Pfannen    SECONDED by: Mrs. Plan**

Roll Call	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
CHERIYAN	x			
PFANNEN	x			
CABUHAT	x			
AQUINO				x
PLAN	x			

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Health of the Borough of Bergenfield that the aforesaid ordinance be and the same is hereby passed on April 8, 2025 and that the secretary of the Board of Health be authorized to publish said ordinance.**

Mrs. DeLaCruz read the Salary Resolution for 2025- 2026. A motion was offered by Dr. Jojy Cheriyan and seconded by Mrs. Pfannen. **Resolution # 006-25**, Salaries and Compensation of the office and employees for the Bergenfield Board of Health was hereby passed on roll call by all members present on April 8, 2025.

Mrs Delacruz read the resolution for the new Court Penalties. A motion was offered by Mrs Pfannen and seconded by Vice President Plan. **Resolution # 007-25**, Violations of the Sanitary Code. The resolution was read and hereby passed on roll call by all members present on April 8, 2025.

**VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Pfannen inquired if there was any discussion at the Mayor and Council public meeting regarding the Animal control Contract. Mrs. DeLaCruz mentioned that this was passed and that it was comparable for this year but for next year it is about \$8,500 increase. Mrs. Pfannen mentioned that the inspectors were satisfied with Tyco. Mrs. DeLaCruz said that she discussed it with Corey and with Animal control regarding the feral cats, she stated that there will be a charge to the residents of \$125 to pick up the cats. The cats are neutered then put back to the area where they were picked from. There is also a charge of \$55 to pick up a dead animal on the resident property. Licensing of the animals was discussed in detail. Dr. Cheriyan made the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Vice President Plan

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Vice-President Plan and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Annemarie DeLaCruz  
Registrar of Vital Statistics, CMR*