

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM

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 -Absent

Also Present, AnneMarie Delacruz , Liz Cruz Susan Barker, Jim Fedorko, Ruby Parra, Pam Lesnak. Councilman Hernando Rivera was absent.

OPEN HEARINGS

Mrs. Stanton, resident of Bergenfield, mentioned the Leonia Ordinance and inquired about Narcan antidote boxes in public access areas next to all publicly accessible automated external defibrillator units, or AEDs, throughout the borough. Nurse Liz responded and stated that it is not a requirement to have them, however the health dept does have Narcan boxes for those that need them. Mrs. Pfannen mentioned AED boxes and asked how many AED boxes we have and this was discussed in detail as to where these boxes should be located.

There being no one 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

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan seconded by Mrs. Aquino and carried that the minutes of the regular meeting of **October** 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.

Amazon -	\$ 119.45
Amazon-	\$ 93.58
Cooper Pest Control-	\$ 1174.08
Gannett Publishing-	\$ 59.84
R. R. Donnelley-	\$ 319.50

REPORTS**Legal and Finance**

Mrs. Pfannen mentioned the letter that she sent out to which the mayor responded and she said it was not the Mayor's Wellness Campaign that she was addressing -it was allocation of resources and oversight which she said can be discussed further under verbal communications after the routine meeting is done.

Medical

Dr. Cheriyan mentioned there was nothing else except that the CDC had issued new guidelines for the covid vaccine were based on individual needs and with the consultation of the provider and health care professional. Dr. Cheriyan mentioned the MMR and varicella that should not be combined. Nurse Liz mentioned that she had a person who was not covered under the parent's Medicare insurance at CVS. Dr. Cheriyan said that the covid vaccine is not mandatory and boosters are only recommended but are based on individual needs like underlying conditions or international travel. Mrs. Delacruz asked if a doctor's note is required with Medicare for the vaccine to be covered and Dr. Cheriyan mentioned that any healthcare provider could authorize the vaccine.

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 referred to the confirmed measles case in Bergenfield, the infectious period was from August 22nd to August 31st (he thanked Liz Cruz for the help with the case) he mentioned 200 people exposed to this case. He mentioned the 11 cases in South Carolina and said that there were 150 students who were quarantined since they were not vaccinated and had to stay home from school due to the exposure. He stressed the importance of the MMR vaccines and that the exemptions in students have increased in Bergen County. The exemption of kids was discussed in detail and he said that going forward there will be an increased number of measles cases in the United States. Mr. Fedorko referred to his report and the number of measles cases in Texas. He also discussed the difficulty of contact tracing when there is a measles exposure. Mr. Fedorko mentioned that vector borne diseases were low. One case of west Nile virus and 4 cases of malaria. He referred to his report and the 173 tick borne illnesses of which 163 were Lyme disease. He referred to Bergen County mosquito control doing a good job.

Dr. Cheriyan inquired if Mr. Fedorko sees an increase in the measles cases in Bergen County and Mr. Fedorko mentioned he only has access to Mid Bergen Regional health commission and mentioned there were three cases in Fort Lee and they had religious exemptions. Dr. Cheriyan discussed measles in detail.

Mrs. Aquino inquired if the MMR is mandatory for school enrolment and Mr. Fedorko explained that it is mandatory with two exemptions a medical and religious exemptions.

Ruby presented her report she mentioned at 477 South Washington Avenue and she attended two food events she said she received the drawings for the cafe which need to be improved. She mentioned a new owner for 284 Ivy Lane Daycare who is in the process of changing the license of the owner with the State. She mentioned the complaint on September 12 at 20 Cooper Street by the building department that there was a food truck parked on the premises, but she said she did not find a food truck parked on the two occasions that she visited the driveway. Ruby also mentioned that Eat well Modern Buffet were closed for 5 days and when they reopened, they passed satisfactorily. Mrs. Delacruz mentioned that Sue is on medical leave and reiterated that the part of the report that Ruby mentioned is from south lease since he was doing Sue's part of the inspections and those were the inspections that were noted as detailed on the report.

Nurse Liz discussed her report and mentioned that she is pursuing Lifevac for the Health Department. She mentioned that Lisa and Robin have been going once a week for Mayor's Wellness. Mrs. Pfannen asked Nurse Liz about adult vaccinations and Nurse Liz confirmed that the Borough Health department have permits for adult vaccinations and explained this further. Nurse Liz also mentioned that there are no kids coming to the clinics. Mrs. Pfannen mentioned that in August there were no children that came to the Clinic and asked if through Councilman Rivera or Ruby if there are ways to reach out to the Hispanic community. Nurse Liz mentioned that the schools follow up with kids who are not vaccinated.

Mrs. Pfannen also inquired about the safe sitter class and mentioned that in September there were only 4 students in the class and the program was discussed further in detail. Mrs. Delacruz suggested that the registration fee should be collected ahead of time.

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan and seconded by Mrs. Aquino and carried that the written reports for September 2025 be accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. DeLaCruz stated there was no correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

"No Report"

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Pfannen made a motion to have the final reading of the Ordinance read seconded by Mrs. Aquino. Mrs. DeLaCruz read the final reading for Ordinance 25-002.

On Roll call all members present voted yes and the ordinance was adopted.

Dr. Cheriyan
Mrs. Pfannen
Mr. Cabuhat
Mrs. Aquino
Mrs. Plan - absent

Mrs. Dela Cruz discussed the Munidex Contract. She mentioned that she currently uses Munidex for Marriage applications and licenses and said Munidex is paid \$975 annually. She mentioned that she was trained on the new cloud-based program and mentioned that the maintenance contract will be \$2150 to be paid in 2026 but after this payment the payment will be \$975 which will be due in 2027. The Board agreed to the new program.

Mrs. dela Cruz mentioned School special events and that the borough has been contacted regarding pizza fundraisers, candy fundraisers, She stated that Mr. Gallo waived the special event license and that a hand washing brochure was created to distribute to the schools.

Mrs. Pfannen mentioned that it was not the Mayor's Wellness Challenge but that she wanted to discuss allocations and resources and oversight and accountability as she had outlined in her letter. She said that she wanted to have a closed meeting with the Board to discuss this but she had two different answers regarding legality - the Borough Attorney had said that a closed meeting could not be held on a general subject however the mid Bergen attorney had said it could be held but she said she decided she will go ahead with the public meeting.

She mentioned the changes since 2017 and then covid and the new Mayor. She explained that the Mayor's Wellness Campaign was a 6-week statewide competition and now it has been extended year-round. She mentioned Zumba line dancing and yoga and bar and the utilization of the nursing staff for all these events.

Nurse Liz asked if she is needed for this part of the meeting and she was informed that unless she had anything to add she did not need to stay on for the meeting. President Cabuhat mentioned the necessity to have a nurse during these exercises, but Mrs. Pfannen said that in New Milford everyone is asked to sign a release and therefore the presence of a registered nurse is not necessary. This topic was discussed in detail with the focus being the use of resources for a registered nurse to be present at these events.

Mr. Cabuhat mentioned that budgetary details should be discussed with the Borough Administrator. Mrs. Pfannen explained how this was conducted in the past with volunteers and mentioned that even for the safe sitter program it was discussed that there would be 12 kids but the last time there were only 4 kids. Dr. Cheriyan offered his insight into the use of the nurse for this program since nurses stand above the level of a Zumba or yoga instructor. He stressed the legality of this issue and the misuse of funds and the need to find an alternative to support this wellness program with the right resources and not use the resources for other scopes of practice. He mentioned that a higher-level professional is doing lower level jobs and getting paid at the higher level. He said ethics and morals should be followed.

Dr. Cheriyan asked for an answer from Mr. Fedorko as the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health as to how these resources are being utilized and not over utilized. Mrs. Pfannen explained to Mr. Cabuhat that the retired Nurse Ms. August never attended any of the other events.

Mrs. Aquino mentioned she does not know the history, but she asked if there is a requirement for medical personnel to participate in this program if there was a budget for this program. Mrs. Pfannen explained that this is a six-week program, but it is now run all year round in Bergenfield. Dr. Cheriyan said there is no guideline that medical personnel are needed. The authenticity of having a Registered Nurse participate in this program was discussed in detail.

Mr. Fedorko mentioned that the blood pressure cuffs program has ended. Dr. Cheriyan was concerned if those who received the blood pressure cuffs were those who really needed it. Mrs. Pfannen said hoping that the Mayor's Wellness will expand but a Registered Nurse is not needed at the events. This will be discussed further in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Dr. Cheriyan seconded by Mrs. Pfannen and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Annemarie DelaCruz
Registrar of Vital Statistics, CMR*