

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM

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 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
- Dr. Nath
- Mr. Cabuhat
- Ms. Aquino
- Mr. Rivera- Joined Late

Also Present, AnneMarie Delacruz , Jim Fedorko, Susan Barker, Sarah Bambino, Pam Lesnak, Ruby Parra and Councilman Hernando Rivera was absent.

OPEN HEARINGS

There being no one present who wished to be heard on a motion made by Dr. Cheriyan 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 out that the minutes of the regular meeting of **September** 2026 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:

Amazon Services	\$56.83
Bergen County Animal Control	\$ 23,364.83
Institute for Prof. Development (AD Certifications)	\$100.00
Nancy Rothenberg (quarterly)	\$3000.00
Safe Sitter- Class Books	\$399.00
Treasurer State of NJ (Medical Waste)	\$ 85.00
WB Mason	\$ 129.78

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan and seconded Mrs. Aquino and carried that the following bills were reviewed and approved.

REPORTS**Legal and Finance**

"No Report"

Medical

Dr. Cheriyan reported that flu season is approaching and recommended that children receive their influenza vaccines by November 30, while adults should receive their vaccines by the first or second week of December. He also discussed recent changes in state law concerning independent practice privileges for nurse practitioners and physician assistants, particularly in the delivery of primary care services, including vaccinations and prescriptions. He further noted that pharmacy technicians are now permitted to administer vaccines. Dr. Cheriyan reported that discussions have taken place at meetings of the State Department of Health and the NJLBH regarding potential public health hazards associated with data centers. These discussions are ongoing.

Regarding environmental protection and water safety, Dr. Cheriyan noted that the State Attorney General is filing lawsuits against water companies over elevated levels of certain chemicals in the water supply. He advised residents to follow any water safety advisories issued by their water providers and to boil or filter water as directed. Mr. Cabuhat asked about the upgraded influenza vaccines. Dr. Cheriyan clarified that the vaccine is trivalent. Dr. Nath inquired whether the Borough could arrange for flu shots to be available at locations other than Walgreens or CVS. Mrs. DeLaCruz asked Mr. Fedorko whether Walgreens would be holding a flu clinic this year. Mr. Fedorko explained that the previous flu clinic held at Conlon Hall had received a good turnout. At that time, Walgreens also provided pneumococcal and COVID-19 vaccines. However, after the clinic was moved to Borough Hall, attendance declined significantly, and Walgreens indicated that it was not worthwhile to return to that location.

Dr. Cheriyan stated that there was no shortage of influenza vaccines. He asked Mr. Fedorko whether he was aware of additional points of care where residents could receive vaccinations so that this information could be shared with the public. He noted that access to vaccines remains a concern for uninsured residents, whereas underinsured individuals are generally covered. The matter was discussed in detail, including vaccine access for uninsured and underinsured residents. Dr/ Cheriyan reaffirmed that vaccines should only be given to those with no Health Insurance, and ID should be validated to confirm that the parents are living in Bergenfield. It was also discussed that Mid-Bergen would coordinate arrangements for vaccines to be administered at the Bergenfield Senior Center, Mr. Fedorko requested Mrs. Delacruz's assistance with these arrangements.

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 reported that there were no mosquito-borne illnesses in Mid-Bergen or Bergen County. He noted that Bergenfield conducted insecticide spraying on August 3. Mr. Fedorko expressed concerns about this type of spraying, explaining that the insecticide may not effectively reach residents' backyards. He also noted that the spraying hours had been changed from 3:00–6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.–12:00 a.m. Regarding the FIFA World Cup and the 250th anniversary of Independence Day, Mr. Fedorko stated that no significant issues had occurred during that period. He also discussed the cyclosporiasis outbreak, noting that New Jersey was not affected. He reported 15 cases in Mid-Bergen and three cases in Bergenfield. Of the three Bergenfield cases, two individuals had a history of travel.

Sue Barker reported that her reports had been submitted. She noted an increase in complaints involving rats, standing water, sanitary conditions, and mouse infestations. Approximately 15 individual complaints were received per month during the summer, which she indicated was a significant number.

Ms. Barker reported that three special events were planned in connection with the start of school events in September. Parent organizations had been communicating regarding the necessary licenses, and Annemarie had also been assisting with this process. She provided updates on new businesses that opened during the summer, including: A new Filipino restaurant, cosmetology business on the Avenue and QuickChek on the Avenue. The retail water store application was not approved, and the applicant planned to resubmit it. Ms. Barker also reported that Bergenfield averages approximately 30 animal bites annually.

Sarah Bambino provided updates on the health education programs offered during the year. The Project Healthy Bones and osteoporosis prevention program ran from January through August and served approximately 20 participants. The program continued for as long as funding and other available resources permitted. The diabetes prevention program ran during May and early June. Participation was limited, with approximately five individuals registering. Ms. Bambino reported that the grant funding had concluded and that Bergenfield currently had no active health promotion contract. However, she offered to provide assistance if needed.

Mr. Fedorko explained that the contract with Mid-Bergen covers the services of the Health Officer and Health Inspector, health education services previously provided by Sarah Bambino, and nursing-related responsibilities involving the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). He acknowledged the excellent work of Annemarie and the nursing staff, noting that they had taken on much of the responsibility for reviewing and monitoring CDRSS. Mr. Fedorko invited Annemarie to comment. She praised the per diem nurses and reported that there had been 42 cases. Mr. Fedorko provided additional details regarding the cases and the related responsibilities. Mrs. DeLaCruz reported that Robin and Lisa would be conducting school audits. Mr. Fedorko explained that health education services would no longer be provided under the current arrangement. If the Board wished to continue these services in 2027, a contract would need to be established unless the Board decided otherwise. Mr. Fedorko further explained that, to comply with New Jersey Department of Health requirements, the health educator must hold the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential. He noted that Sarah Bambino holds this certification, while the nurses and Liz Cruz did not. The grant funding and the future of the health education programs were discussed in detail.

Dr. Nath asked when the contract would be renewed, and Mr. Fedorko explained the renewal timeline. Dr. Nath also asked whether attendance data from the previous year were available to help the Board determine whether the programs should continue in the following year. Ms. Bambino confirmed that she had attendance reports for each completed program and offered to share them with the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Fedorko clarified that the available data would cover programs conducted by Mid-Bergen and would not include attendance information for events previously conducted by Liz Cruz; Dr. Cheriyan stated that, once the attendance figures were presented, programs demonstrating a benefit to Bergenfield residents should be sustained. Mr. Fedorko discussed the opioid settlement funds allocated to municipalities and noted that these funds could potentially be used to support community outreach programs. Dr. Nath discussed the impact of opioids on the elderly population and raised the issue of the availability of Narcan kits. The discussion highlighted the potential use of opioid settlement funds for outreach and education initiatives addressing opioid-related concerns in the community.

- **Program attendance data:** Sarah Bambino will share attendance reports for completed Mid-Bergen health education programs at the next Board meeting.
- **Health education services for 2027:** The Board will consider whether to continue health education programming and whether a new contract is necessary.
- **School audits:** Robin and Lisa will conduct the scheduled school audits.
- **Special event licensing:** Coordination with parent organizations regarding required licenses will continue, with assistance from Annemarie.
- **Retail water store application:** The applicant is expected to resubmit the application.
- **Opioid outreach initiatives:** The Board may consider whether opioid settlement funds could support community outreach, education, and access to Narcan kits.

Mrs. DeLaCruz reported that she had submitted the nursing reports for June, July, and August and provided a detailed explanation of the reports. She also discussed the Safe Sitter class scheduled for September 19, 2026 noting that Pam would assist Nurse Robin. Mrs. Dela Cruz reported that 15 crossing guards received hearing and vision screenings in August. She further reported that Dr. Rothenberg administered 15 vaccinations and those four TB tests were conducted during the month. She reviewed the nursing schedule and noted that nurses were available throughout the week. Dr. Nath asked for additional information regarding the Safe Sitter class, and Mrs. Dela Cruz provided a detailed explanation. Dr. Cheriyan asked Mrs. Dela Cruz to assess the nursing services needed by the Health Dept. Mrs. Dela Cruz stated that, in her opinion, a full-time nurse was not necessary. Instead, she recommended adding a couple of per diem nurses to provide backup coverage. She explained her recommendation in detail to the Board.

Dr. Nath referred to previous Nurse and the loss of vaccines in the amount of \$20,000 that had to be paid she asked if there is a danger of losing any services. Mr. Cabuhat mentioned this was discussed at a closed-door meeting and Dr. Cheriyan stated that the investigation is taking its course. Mr. Fedorko confirmed that the Health Department was in compliance and Mrs. DeLaCruz confirmed that she was able to order the vaccines.

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan and seconded by Mr. Rivera and carried that the Monthly Reports be accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE

“No Report”

NEW BUSINESS

“No Report”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sue stated that the Massage Parlor Ordinance needs to be rewritten, noting that there are currently no massage parlors in Bergenfield. Dr. Cheriyan stated that it would be prudent to have the ordinance in place as a precautionary measure.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

A motion was made by Dr. Cheriyan and seconded by Mrs. Aquino and carried that Verbal Communications be closed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Dr. Cheriyan and seconded Mrs. Aquino and carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Annemarie DelaCruz
Registrar of Vital Statistics*