



## **PENNINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

7:00 PM

1. Mr. Papenberg opened the meeting at 7:03pm with the Opening Statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting as required by sections 3(d) and 4(a) of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public and filed with the Borough Clerk”.

2. ROLL CALL: Steve Papenberg, Chair ( x ) - Toni Lewis ( x ) - Susan Perris ( x ) - Marjorie Kaplan ( x ) - Mariya Brown ( x )

- John Valenza, Borough Council Liaison ( x )
- Dawn Marling, Health Officer ( x )

3. Approval of Minutes – The meeting Minutes of May 2, 2023 were approved, with a Motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Brown. All were in favor.

#### 4. Health Department Updates & Activity Reports

- Animal Control – The ACO’s activity report was reviewed. No notable issues in the Borough at this time.
- Environmental Health
  - Ms. Marling reported that the Health Department had advertised for a full-time REHS inspector but did not receive many applications and ultimately hired a part-time REHS at this time. This individual maintains another full-time job and will be conducting routine restaurant inspections in the evenings, as well as helping the Department with special events on the weekends. This is a big asset for the Health Dept. since putting existing staff on overtime for festivals, food truck events, etc. was challenging. Some discussion was held about the pros and cons of inspections occurring during the evening hours. Mr. Papenberg noted that while there may be some inconvenience during busy operating periods, it is also the ideal time for an inspector to view how food safety truly is handled, with all the variables of staffing and space limitations and food prep, handwashing, etc.
- Public Health Nursing & Education
  - Ms. Marling shared that she is working on the communicable disease report and will send as an update to BOH. Nurse mentioned at May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is leaving unfortunately; good fit for Health Dept. but family relocating.
  - Fall Flu Clinics are being finalized. Meeting scheduled to confirm dates with Wegmans. Typically partnered with Walgreens by Pennington Q Market, however

their corporate office is now charging \$1,000 to do a fall flu clinic which is cost-prohibitive. Wegmans may partner with us at Pennington Boro Hall, the Sr. Center and other areas. From clinics in past years, Health Dept. does registration, advertising, and room set-up. The pharmacy brings vaccine & vaccinators, handles billing to insurance, and Health Dept. nurses provide support with monitoring for adverse reactions. It was suggested to also reach out to Pennington Apothecary; Ms. Marling will follow-up. When will new CVS be operational; i.e., one at Pennington-Wash Crossing Road? That could be another avenue. Flu clinic date tentatively set for October 17th in Boro Hall and other dates may be in September. Hopewell Pharmacy is better suited for the smaller settings like the 55+ residential communities. Ms. Marling will follow-up on what scientist are seeing in Australia so far, with current vaccine formulation, and match for this season's flu viruses.

- **COVID boosters / New RSV vaccine:** Surveying the landscape for this. Talk is they will go back to a monovalent version. The original COVID-19 strain will no longer be included because not in circulation anymore, instead the Omicron strain that is circulating for the fall. There is no information yet about what age groups will be recommended by FDA/CDC to receive another dose. Clinic last week was quite busy. Planning as well in conversation with Wegmans as whether they can provide the new RSV vaccine; CDC recommendation is to discuss risks and benefits with healthcare provider.
- **Grants updates:**
  - NJDOH – “Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity”. The Health Dept. has had this grant for last couple of years, funding the Outreach Coordinator, a Public Health Generalist (previously contact tracers), and the Department's clerical / administrative support. The funding is renewed for FY'24 (July 2023 - June 2024).
  - NJACCHO – “Enhancing Local Public Health Capacity”. Ms. Marling reports the grant application due tomorrow and she is including a request for additional items that the NJDOH is no longer supporting, and areas which do not fit within the DOH grant parameters. For example, costs related to animal control, certain caps on things the State Health Dept. grant will not cover, such as our need for a new copier/scanner and price cap on toner, etc.

## 6. Old Business

- **Public Health Priority Funding** – S. Papenburg updated that NJ Senate passed and NJ Assembly did not; they wanted more specifics on what the funds would be spent on. Meeting this Saturday with State Association of Local Boards of Health to revisit this. Will look at strategy for next year, one may be to work with NJ League of Municipalities. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE) also active in this effort.
- **Cannabis Sales** – Ms. Marling noted four applicants including one at former Pennington Chiropractic Circle; building permits for renovation taken out in Hopewell Twp. One near Thai Restaurant on Rte. 31 has yet not gotten state approval, the vendor is Jersey Meds. Jersey Meds currently has the place on Pennington Circle that will be CBD non-cannabis products not certain if that will remain open. Per Councilman Valenza, the Chief of Police was impressed with cooperation from proposed vendor; however, Mr. Valenza notes it is an all cash operation and on Route 1 there is an armed guard and can be a traffic issue.

- **Mobile Stroke Unit** – Ms. Marling shared that the Hopewell Valley Board of Fire Commissioners issued a Resolution urging Capital Health to stage a staffed ALS unit at 2480 Pennington Road. They current stage a BLS unit. The BOH suggested to bring someone in from the EMS group to give us more information. With closure of Pennington First Aid Squad could be good opportunity to get information on landscape on EMS moving forward bring them in to September meeting. Will Capital Health be taking over the PFA Squad building? Ms. Marling will look into this further.
- **Other:** Ms. Kaplan requested follow-up on old business regarding safety of rail cars that come thru Pennington. Mr. Valenza stated that the OEM coordinator for Hopewell Twp. cannot come to speak to us since he is not employed by Pennington Borough. However, a recent presentation provided to the Hopewell Township committee was discussed. Doug Pinelli, Chief of Police is OEM coordinator for Pennington and says CSX inspects rail bridge annually. Ms. Kaplan expressed concern about the prevention of accidents in cases where rail cars may not be what they should be; she will follow-up with state or federal government resources.

#### 7. New business

- **Council Updates** – Mr. Valenza reported that environmental testing of landfill expected to be complete by end of July. Deer management updates: he will look into a report about this and provide to the group. There was some interest in coordinating between Twp. and Boro and so we are looking to possibly get a speaker to discuss coordination of efforts. Board of health to put information about not feeding deer in the next quarterly newsletter that will go out with the newsletter. Discussion about the right ways to communicate the messaging on taking care of deer. Ms. Kaplan, Ms. Lewis, and Ms. Brown agreed to work on language together and in a nice way remind folks there is an ordinance in Pennington about feeding deer. Ms. Marling will put us in touch with animal control officer. Deadline in 2 months.
- **Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership updates** – D. Marling. We pay into the Partnership to do a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The GMPHP meets monthly with nonprofits and hospitals across Mercer Co. to talk about health goals for the county. Mr. Papenberg is on their Board as a member of the public. Recommend visiting [www.healthymercer.org](http://www.healthymercer.org) to learn more. CHNA completed in 2021 w/ CHIP 2022-2024. Assessment came up with several key areas: reducing health disparity, reducing maternal mortality, increasing breast feeding, etc. Ms. Marling spoke with coordinator C. Nicholas on addressing these goals, Capital Health has newborn and nurse visits. We are halfway thru the goals timeline.

#### 8. Public Section – none present

#### 9. Next Meeting Date:

- There is a joint meeting of the Hopewell Valley Boards of Health set for Wed. September 13, 2023 and so the BOH agreed that October 24, 2023 would be the next independent Pennington BOH meeting date.

#### 10. Adjournment

- Motion by T. Lewis to adjourn, seconded by Susan Perris. Unanimous approve to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 pm.