

CHATHAM BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH  
March 14, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Lisa DeRosa called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall. Chrnm. DeRosa read aloud the following statement:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10: 4-6 et. seq. adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by including same in the Annual Notice, copies of which were posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board, on the main floor of the Borough Hall, emailed to the Chatham Courier, the Daily Record, and the Alternative Press on January 3, 2019 and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Names	Present	Absent
Lisa DeRosa, Chrnm.	X	
Rita Marts, R.N.		X
Mary Ann McCabe, R.N.	X	
Kay Kaiser, R.N.	X	
Micki Chaput, R.N.	X	
Lisabeth Bringgard, R.N.	X	
Shelliam Lee		X
Council Member Robert Weber, Sr.	X	
Bridget Colendenski, R.N., Public Health Nurse	X	
Andrew Zoltan – 1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate	X	
Megan Avallone, Health Officer	X	
Beau Preston, R.E.H.S.	X	
Liz Holler, Minutes Secretary	X	

Administration of Oaths of Office

Lisabeth Bringgaard was sworn in to serve as a Regular Member of the Chatham Borough Board of Health. Rita Marts will be sworn in at a future date.

Public Comments

There was none.

Motion to Adopt Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Board of Health meeting of February 14, 2019 were approved as submitted.

Reports

Nursing Report

Mrs. Colendenski summarized the Monthly Nursing Report for February 2019. Helmet safety programs “Be Hard Headed” were held for area youngsters. Car safety seat and education programs were held. Regarding the Madison Chatham Coalition (MCC) activities, plans are in the works to hold Town Hall meetings to discuss the legalization of cannabis.

Mrs. Colendenski reported on the numerous audits on immunization compliance conducted in local schools and pre-schools. No chronic disease cases reported for February. Five communicable disease cases were reported to the Chatham Health Department in February. Overlook Medical Center will be holding two Colorectal Cancer events in early March. Also a Conference for people living with memory loss will be held at the Overlook Medical Center on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### R.E.H.S. Report

Mr. Preston reported that he had completed a number of inspections in February. All five places listed in the report were rated in Satisfactory condition. He noted that the unlicensed dog that had been discussed at last month's meeting is now licensed. The heat complaint reported at an apartment at 500 Main Street has now been closed.

Mr. Preston reported that he has received the plans to review for Café Roma, a future restaurant at 250 Main Street. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, a food handling class was held in Westfield for local food service employees.

Chrmn. DeRosa asked if Cheri Morris, at Borough Hall, had received a notice about the unlicensed dog. Ms. Morris is in charge of animal licenses. Ms. Avallone stated that she will touch base with Animal Control to keep Ms. Morris in the loop on situations like this.

#### Financial Reports

Chrmn. DeRosa reported that she had recently met with Tim Day, the Borough's CFO to review the Board's financial reports. She reviewed how Mr. Day had explained these reports to her in a clear way.

#### Vital Statistics Report

Chrmn. DeRosa noted that the number of births had dropped in February.

#### Animal Control

There were zero animals to report.

#### Pest Control

Chrmn. DeRosa reviewed the locations in the Borough being checked for pests. The Chatham train station and Lum Avenue are checked twice a month. The easement on Fuller Avenue and the culvert located on Chatham Street are expected on a monthly basis.

#### Health Officer Monthly Update

Ms. Avallone introduced Helen Menendez, the assistant to the Health Officer. Ms. Avallone reviewed the high-lights of the past year. Among these activities in 2018, Ms. Avallone and Borough Administrator Steve Williams had attended a meeting with representatives from DEP and the Morris County Environmental Division to proactively address and develop a plan for odor complaints. Ms. Avallone discussed that a complaint had been made regarding Chatham

Collision Body Shop on the corner of North Passaic Ave. and Center Place. Finalize testing had been done on the premises. No health issues were found.

Ms. Avallone reported that Mrs. Colendenski and Mrs. Scanlon have received a 100% compliance score from the audit if the NJ Immunization Network (NJIIS).

Ms. Avallone explained how the awarded \$10,000 was used for lead funding via the Child Lead Evaluation Prevention Program. For instance, if any child in Chatham Borough gets lead poisoning, he/she will be assigned a direct case manager who will see them through this crisis, and will check their homes. Ms. Avallone and others will be meeting with Chatham pediatricians on how children could go through finger-sticking exams in a friendly environment.

Chrmn. DeRosa asked about local contractors being required to obtain lead permits. Ms. Avallone reported that she has been working with Borough Attorney Lott on an ordinance on this matter. It will be ready next month.

Ms. Avallone reviewed the 2018 Annual Report for the Chatham Board of Health. She reported that two rabies clinics were held which vaccinated 66 dogs and 10 cats. She explained the new streamlining process for animal licensing compliance. Three phone calls are made to remind residents who has not renewed their animal's license. When the last notice is made, the Borough can take legal action. Animal Control will then step in.

Regarding Clinical Services, Ms. Avallone reported that six under-insured/non-insured children were seen. Two flu clinics were held for Borough employees. Nineteen employees were vaccinated.

Ms. Avallone reported that 34 communicable diseases had been investigated during 2018. She noted that Mr. Preston, the R.E.H.S. had investigated 18 complaints, many of them concerned mosquito breeding or food service issues.

Ms. Avallone discussed the Educational work that had been done in 2018. The Borough Recreation Department employees received training on the new pool regulations issued by the State that recently went into effect. Updated immunization toolkits were provided to all school nurses and day care centers to assist with audit requirements. Borough employees received instructions on how to prevent the West Nile Virus. All public pools in the Borough were monitored weekly for water safety. Ms. Avallone reported on the tobacco sales compliance with local businesses.

Ms. Avallone discussed the possibility of holding skin cancer screenings for the public. Ms. Avallone could set up screening locations at the local pools this summer.

On other matters, Ms. Avallone noted that the Cannabis bill will be voted on by the State Senate on March 25<sup>th</sup>. It is not expected to pass. Ms. Avallone reported that efforts are being made to create an advisory committee composed of health professionals to submit recommendations to the Senate Commission. Ms. Avallone noted that she will be meeting Assemblywoman Munoz and Senator Kean on March 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss this goal.

Mrs. Bringgard pointed out that this bill, if passed, will provide the State with financial benefits, giving NJ towns getting a percentage. However, states that have legalized marijuana have to deal with an increase of motor vehicle accidents, and increase of people being admitted to emergency rooms. This can be costly.

#### Recent Pertussis cases in Chatham Middle School

Ms. Avallone reported that two cases of pertussis had been reported at the Chatham Middle School. The Superintendent had sent out notifications to the parents. However, the Westfield Health Department and the Madison Health Department were not notified of these pertussis cases. The school nurses were not notified either. A meeting will be held with the MS coordinator of the School District.

Chrmn. DeRosa felt it would have been a good idea for the School Superintendent to notify the health professionals in the communities where the illness had sprung up.

#### Discussion Items

##### Board of Health Resolution #19-04 – Supporting Bill A3818

Mrs. Avallone distributed copies of Resolution #19-04. She explained that this resolution gives the history of these bills from Trenton regarding medical exemptions. She read the resolution aloud:

#### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION CLARIFYING EXEMPTIONS FROM MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS FOR STUDENTS**

##### **RESOLUTION NO. 19-04**

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham Borough Board of Health provides public health services to the Borough of Chatham, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham Borough Board of Health has held and continues to hold a position in support of vaccination, and;

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2018 the Senate referred Bill No. 2173 clarifying statutory exemptions from mandatory immunizations for students to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee for consideration, and;

**WHEREAS**, on April 5, 2018 the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee released from Committee Assembly Bill No. 3818 for consideration by the full Assembly, and;

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2019 Assembly Bill No. 3818 was amended eliminating all exemptions except medical exemptions, and;

**WHEREAS**, vaccines have made it possible to eradicate smallpox worldwide, saving approximately 5 million lives annually, and vaccines have drastically reduced the spread

of potentially life-threatening diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, and rubella; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all states and the District of Columbia use their public health authority to eliminate nonmedical exemptions from immunization requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, encouraging high vaccination rates in New Jersey protect our residents from contracting vaccine preventable diseases that are found in areas with low immunization rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham Borough Board of Health recognizes that a lack of vaccination can cause a true public health crisis, and that there is no credible evidence to suggest that vaccines are not safe; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Health<sup>1</sup> reported that 12,410 religious exemptions were reported for the 2017-2018 school year, an increase of over 2,000 from the prior year, and;

**WHEREAS**, the scientific evidence that vaccines are safe is overwhelming<sup>2</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation does not preclude an exemption when valid medical contraindication is present, and;

**WHEREAS**, the decrease in vaccination rates poses a serious risk to public health<sup>3</sup>, and;

**WHEREAS**, outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, such as measles, pertussis, and mumps, are on the rise<sup>4</sup>, including recent outbreaks in New Jersey, and;

**WHEREAS**, there is concern that vaccination rates have fallen below the recommended number to provide herd immunity to protect those who cannot be vaccinated.<sup>5</sup>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chatham Borough Board of Health, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, fully supports the proposed amended legislation and urges the legislature to pass the bills promptly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon passage by the New Jersey State Legislature that the Chatham Borough Board of Health urges the Governor to sign the bill into law promptly.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the State Legislators representing the Borough of Chatham, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, the President of the New Jersey State Senate, and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health.

Chrmn. DeRosa made a motion to adopt Resolution #19-04 giving the Chatham Borough Board of Health's support of legislation clarifying exemptions from mandatory immunizations for students. Council Member Weber seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All Board members present voted aye.

Chrmn. DeRosa suggested a Board member could write an article about this resolution with Ms. Avallone's help.

Mrs. Bringgaard reported that the Madison-Chatham Coalition Survey for local students was a great success. The results will probably be ready at the beginning of May. An article could be written informing the public about this survey and the response.

At 8:08 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

The next Chatham Borough Board of Health meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Room 212, middle level, Chatham Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Holler  
Recording Secretary