

Minutes of the Board of Health Meeting of the Township of Woodbridge, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey held on April 11, 2023 at 7:17 P.M. at the Municipal Building, 1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

Notice Requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied concerning this meeting. The Home News Tribune and The Star Ledger published the Annual Notice Schedule on December 10, 2021. A copy of the Schedule was posted on the Municipal bulletin board. It should be so noted in the minutes of this meeting.

The Municipal Clerk took the Municipal Council attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lizbeth DeJesus, Sharon McAuliffe, Debbie Meehan, Viru Patel
Brian Small, Cory Spillar, Kyle Anderson, Gregg Ficarra

MEMBERS ABSENT: Howie Bauer

ALSO PRESENT: John E. McCormac, Mayor
John Mitch, Municipal Clerk
Vito Cimilluca, Business Administrator
Casey Wagner, Deputy Business Administrator
John Hagerty, Director of Communications
Marta Darden, Director of Planning and Development
Robert Hubner, Director of Police
Phil Bujalski, Director of Health
George Brew, Director of Public Works
Craig Coughlin, Esq.
Eric Lange, Esq.

Council President Ficarra: Director Bujalski.

Director Bujalski: Thank you Council President Ficarra. I want to provide a couple of updates on our Agenda.

Number 3: We had the first of three Rabies clinics in February and it was very well attended. We vaccinated 174 dogs and 12 cats for a total 186 rabies vaccinations administered. Our next clinic will be on May 23, 2023 and we'll advertise at that time.

Number 5: Nursing and Clinics, thankfully we are transitioning out of the Pandemic. We are back to providing our pre-pandemic clinics, CHC well-being vaccines, school age physicals and vaccines, adult immunization, daycare partnerships for ensuring updated childhood immunizations and C program for early detection of women's cancers. For details on other Health Department services, please visit the Township website and you can also look us up on Facebook under Woodbridge Health Department. Additionally to stay up to date on other Township events you can sign up for the monthly public health newsletter emails through the Township website by clicking "how do I" and sign up for notifications for Woodbridge public health e-news.

Number 9: Covid-19 response. As I mentioned we are thankfully transitioning out of this. However, we are in fact continuing to provide weekly COVID vaccination clinics for residents that wish to maintain booster protection and updated boosters. Although this means that the demand has lessened, residents continue to schedule and attend these clinics. We have not had a clinic each week where no one has shown up. The cost of these clinics continues to be paid exclusively through the State Public Health Grant.

Number 10: Public Health Grants: Our staff and I are always on the search for grants that can either partially or wholly cover the cost of the many health services we provide to our community. One particular grant I wanted to update everyone on which is a byproduct of the Federal Infrastructure Bill. We recently applied for a Public Health Infrastructure Grant and I'm very pleased to report that we won a \$671,000 grant award. This was quite timely as our aging health center building, which was constructed in the late 60's, is in need of windows, door replacements and security system work. Of course those were key eligibility components for acquiring this grant and the work that needs to be done will be covered 100% by this grant. Once completed this work will keep the health center building viable for decades to come. We have identified additional grants that we have either submitted letters of intent on or are awaiting decisions on those application. If awarded they will help offset the cost of other health department activities and related salaries.

Three quick additional items of note. On Thursday, May 4, 2023, our Behavioral Health Services Division previously known as Addiction Services, will be hosting a Gala at the Acacia Center in Port Reading, benefiting The Road to Hope Organization which helps those impacted by behavioral health illness.

On May 6, 2023 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m., the Health Department will be conducting another event. This event will include a flag raising in honor of mental health as well as a walk down Main

Street in order to raise awareness and break the stigma of mental health. Woodbridge Health Department has partnered with the Greenway Family Success Centers but we want to stress that this event is appropriate for all ages. Vendors and resources will be available to speak as well as hand out education materials regarding mental health. We are encouraging everyone to attend.

Lastly, having to do with some awards. We are really fortunate with the Health Department and I as Director, we have a really great staff shown especially during the Pandemic. I wanted to share that recently several of our staff received individual recognition from a couple of State organizations. Following the February accouchement by the New Jersey League of Municipalities, Champion of Health Honorable Mention Award for our Public Health educator as ASHLEY Ristaino, for her work in Public Health Education in Woodbridge Township that Council President was kind enough to note a few meetings back. That was followed with at the Annual New Jersey Environmental Health Association Awards Ceremony last month our very own Anthony Ravino whom I nominated for Registered Environmental Health Specialist of the year for his distinguished work on childhood lead prevention, lead mitigation, mental health referral system that works cooperatively with the police department mental health services and trying to get folks where the police go out on mental health related issues to get them counseling. He was a key part in coordinating that effort. And his work, as Councilwoman Meehan mentioned earlier, with our efforts for preventing e-cigarettes in the hands of the youth and with the new enforcement of the new e-cigarette flavors ban. I am happy to report that he won the New Jersey Environmental Inspector of The Year award and that's quite an accomplishment. I just wanted to recognize those two for that great work and again, we are very fortunate to have the staff that we have. Council President I have nothing else unless there is a question.

Council President Ficarra: Any questions for our Director? Good job Director. Well done. I thank Miss Ari for her presentation about the community garden and I think she might be a good candidate for some our sustainable New Jersey health committees.

Council President Ficarra: Motion to adjourn.

On a motion made by Council Vice President Anderson, seconded by Councilman Spillar and carried unanimously, Council President Ficarra adjourned the meeting at 7:25 P.M.