

**WARREN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
July 29, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.
THIS MEETING HELD BY CONFERENCE CALL**

Call to Order: The regular public meeting of the Warren Township Board of Health was called to order at 7:16 p.m.

Flag Salute- waived (due to nature of meeting being held via conference call)

The Opening Statement: Adequate notice of this meeting was given on July 20, 2020 by posting a copy on the Township Bulletin Board sending a copy to the Township Clerk, Star Ledger as required by the Open Public Meetings Act and by posting in the Echoes Sentinel on July 23, 2020. We plan to adjourn no later than 9:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Mr. Plager – present	<u>Alternate #1</u>
Mr. Riley – present	Ms. Burger- Absent
Mr. Rosenman – present	
Mr. Morlino – absent (arrived 7:15 p.m.)	<u>Alternate #2</u>
Mr. Lazo – Absent	Dr. Mandal- Absent
Dr. DeMarco- Absent	
Dr. Sarraf- Absent	

Privilege of the floor: None.

New Business:

Mr. Plager calls for Mr. Sumner to read new resolution being introduced.

Resolution NO. 2020-11-Appointing Patricia Martins as Registrar of Vital Statistics

Motion made by Mr. Morlino and seconded by Mr. Rosenman to adopt Resolution 2020-11.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Mr. Plager asked Mr. Sumner to briefly discuss an article Mr. Sumner recently had released titled “Public Health Swimming Upstream in Search of Influence.” Mr. Sumner explained the article’s content highlights how undermined and underfunded public health truly is and speaks to the issues of the lack of value in public health especially now during this global pandemic crisis. Mr. Riley agrees with key points brought to light by the article and further states that lack of political influence and lobbying are key antagonists of an already under funded public health system.

Mr. Sumner then begins the meeting with the latest Covid19 statistics as follows:

- Warren had 150 confirmed laboratory positive cases
- Age range of positive cases between 19-98; a decline in age for new cases
- 61.8% females; 37.4% males; .8 unknown
- Total Covid19 related deaths 14
- Age range of deaths between 65- 95
- Totally recoveries stand at 68

- Commission wide there were 981 confirmed cases
- Total number of deaths commission wide total 125
- Overall number of new cases dropped; sporadic positives
- Spike in Warren occurred 2 weeks prior due to increased testing at long term care facility
- Hospitalizations are not on the rise although we see higher positive case rates in younger adults: ages 20-50
- There is still some difficulty in obtaining tests; likewise, results take 5-10 days to be obtained to due laboratories being inundated with specimens

Mr. Riley asked Mr. Sumner to clarify the numbers given commission wide whether it included City of Bridgewater. Mr. Sumner confirmed it did.

Mr. Plager asked if Rutgers was able to proceed with the quick turn-around Covid test and whether they were still testing. Mr. Sumner answered yes but delays in testing were also seen.

Ms. Pearlmutter inquired if testing was required on day 10, for those who tested positive but were asymptomatic and whether there was any established evidence that those who were positive but asymptomatic could test positive a second time. Mr. Sumner's response was negative to testing after 10-day quarantine and asymptomatic; As to the possibility of testing positive or contracting the virus a second time, he was not sure since there is no data corroborating those possibilities.

Mr. Plager was concerned with the spike in cases especially after Governor Murphy's news conference which brought to light a spike in positive cases due to folks attending large gatherings and parties while not following safety measures like keeping six feet apart or wearing face coverings. Mr. Plager asks Mr. Sumner if in these cases, contact tracing is effective in containing spread. Mr. Sumner feels that contact tracing is working for now due to low number of cases presented, however, the effectiveness of contact tracing is objectional due to noncompliance from people being contacted and their reluctance in divulging others that they were in contact with. There are no legal guidelines and people can refuse to be interviewed by contact tracers.

Mr. Sumner informs the Board that the majority of his time is being spent on daily meetings with schools, both at the local and county level. School districts are really struggling with guidance documents received from the State Department of Education. CDC recently changed their guidelines and schools need to have a plan in place by this week or end of next week. Mr. Sumner has been working around the clock with the schools in helping to answer questions that no one anticipated during planning and ironing out any new requirements to the guidelines as they continuously change.

Mr. Plager asks about busing of kids to school and whether this will be feasible, especially with the strict distancing guidelines. Mr. Sumner confirms that buses will be available and the CDC guidelines recently changed to now accommodate one child per row.

Mr. Sumner further stipulates that guidance given to school officials cannot just be guided by health officers as there are many other facets and issues in putting a plan together for reopening especially with changes to the guidelines that are occurring on a daily basis.

Mr. Riley asks if retail is still running at 50% capacity. Mr. Sumner affirms. Mr. Morlino questions enforcement actions being taken at airports for those people flying in to NJ. Mr. Sumner explains that there is no enforcement in a formal sense. No action is being taken to issue quarantine orders. Airport staff ask flyers coming in from any of the 36 States on the list to fill out a voluntary questionnaire. Said questionnaire is transmitted to the State Health Department and then local health departments, who follow up with a phone call to travelers to advise them to self-quarantine for 14 days and whether they anticipate any needs they might need assistance with while on quarantine such as obtaining food, medications and so forth.

Ms. Pearlmutter questions whether people utilizing other modes of transport are being checked when entering NJ. Mr. Sumner answers that no, there is not way to do so. Mr. Plager asks what the status on vaccine research is and will it be available by the end of the year. Mr. Sumner elaborates that over 150 vaccines are in research phase across the world; two are in phase three. From a public health stand point, there are reports that a

vaccine might be approved by the end of the year or early next year and while Mr. Sumner is hopeful, the production and distribution of a vaccine will add challenges to availability and establishing how and who would get the vaccine. Mr. Sumner is already in conversation with other local health officers in preparedness to plan for mass vaccination clinics, scheduling and appointments; They are also revisiting past plans implemented during 2009's H1NI outbreak and ensuring that software used during that time will be available and compatible.

Mr. Plager questioned whether there are any other forms of treatment that might help along with a vaccine. Mr. Sumner states that researchers around are using plasma from previously infected patients to help treating newly infected patients.

Mr. Riley updated the Board on commission business. He discussed Bridgewater's recent contractual acceptance thru the end of 2020 as the newest member of Middlebrook Regional Commission. He is diligently working with the Mayor of Bridgewater on the probability of fully integrating when the contract is up and is very hopeful this will be the case once Bridgewater Township's council unanimously agrees to fully adopt Middlebrook Regional Health. Mr. Plager congratulated the commission on the news.

Mr. Riley further announces that the Commission is still fully focusing and working on Covid-19.

Mr. Plager asked whether there have been any Covid cases among employees within the townships the Commission supports. Mr. Sumner answered that there were two municipal employees that contracted Covid. Mr. Plager asked Mr. Sumner if the funds he was going to use in lieu of not having South Bound Brook as well will not have to be used now since the input from Bridgewater. Mr. Sumner feels that he will not need to use that money but will need to look at it closely.

Mr. Plager questions Mr. Sumner on the relationship between County, Local and State health. Mr. Sumner states that he is biased but he feels that it has not improved. He feels that State Health Dept. communication to local health is bad on all counts and they don't help with community health agencies and the local health departments. He is hopeful that a bill that has passed by the Senate that will create a commission to evaluate the question about the relationship between the State and local health.

Mr. Sumner informs the Board that Roxdane Kennels was sold and will no longer be Warren Township's Animal Control Officers. The new entity was not interested in taking over the contract due to Covid-19. A new highly recommended company has been signed on, they are Animal Control Solutions, a firm out of Flemington, NJ was brought on board and a contract from July thru December of 2020 was signed. An evaluation will be done after a six/seven-month period. Mr. Plager asked Ms. Martins that a monthly report be supplied to him and the board members.

Mr. Morlino asked if all municipal offices were now open to the public. Mr. Plager stated that offices were opened by appointment only. Mr. Sumner corrected Mr. Plager and advised that effective July 7, Warren Township was fully opened to the public without appointments. Staff and public need to wear masks to enter the building and need to follow social distancing rules.

Ms. Pearlmuter asked Mr. Sumner if flu shots were a recommendation for this year. Mr. Sumner affirmed that now more than ever flu shots are detrimental. Mr. Sumner is considering offering flu vaccine clinic this year as preparation to then establish a Covid-19 clinic once a vaccine is available.

Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2020.

Motion was made by Mr. Riley and seconded by Mr. Rosenman to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes.

Voice Vote:

In Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None.

Reports of Employees/Health Officer Report:

Ms. Martins read receipts, disbursement and totals.

Treasurer's Reports: May and June 2020

May 2020 - Health Receipts	
Receipts for Registrar	\$194.00
Health	\$150.00
Application Fees	
Septic and Well	\$335.00
Total Health	\$679.00
May 2020 - Animal Control Receipts	
Dog	\$171.00
Cats	\$25.00
Total Animal	\$196.00

Total Receipts - May 2020	\$875.00
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May 2020 - Health Disbursements	
May Legal Bill - Pearlmutter	\$969.00
Registrar Book	\$98.00
Legal Advertising - May 2020 meeting	\$17.85
Total Health Disbursement	\$1084.85

May 2020 - Animal Control Disbursements	
Dog/Cat License Late Fee Refund/Covid-19	\$250.00
2020 State Dog License Fee - May	\$11.40
Total Animal Control Disbursements	\$261.40

Total Disbursements - May 2020	\$1346.25
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June 2020 - Health Receipts	
Receipts for Registrar	\$242.00
Health	\$675.00
Application Fees	\$25.00
Septic and Well	\$750.00
Total Health	\$1,692.00

June 2020 - Animal Control Receipts	
Dog	\$458.00
Cats	\$0.00
Total Animal	\$458.00

Total Receipts - June 2020	\$2,150.00
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June 2020 - Health Disbursements	
May Legal Bill - Pearlmutter	\$969.00
2nd Quarter Middle Brook Health Commission Contract	\$31,735.00
Legal Advertising-May 2020 BOH Meeting	\$17.85
Total Health Disbursement	\$32,721.85

June 2020 - Animal Control Disbursements	
1st and 2nd Quarter ACO Contract	\$7,256.00
2020 State Dog License Fee - June	\$25.20
Total Animal Control Disbursements	\$7,281.20

Total Disbursements - June 2020 **\$40,003.05**

Motion to approve May/June Treasure's Report made by Mr. Rosenman and seconded by Mr. Morlino.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Adjournment:

Mr. Plager thanks Mr. Sumner for his dedication during these tough times and wishes all to stay safe and well.

Motion made by Mr. Plager and seconded by Mr. Riley to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Voice Vote:

All in Favor: Unanimous

Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Martins

Administrative Secretary

Warren Township Board of Health