

**WESTFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07090**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 9, 2023.**

Pursuant to the rules of the Board of Health of the Town of Westfield, NJ, a meeting was called to order at 5:01PM on Monday, January 9, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Westfield Town Hall, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey. The statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act was read.

Appointments(s) / Re-appointment(s) to the Board:

Brenden Bertsch (term expires 12/31/26)
Mitchell Shusteris (term expires 12/31/26)
Steven Pentangelo—Alternate #2 (term expires 12/31/24)
Emily Root—Council Liaison (term expires 12/31/23)

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Elizabeth Talmont
Dr. Lawrence Budnick
Dr. Andrea Marcus
Dr. Steven Gorelick
Mr. Brendan Bertsch
Dr. Daniel Halevy (arrived at 5:06pm)
Mr. Mitchell Shusteris
Mr. Steven Pentangelo—Alternate #2

Also Present:

Megan Avallone, MS, RN, REHS—Health Officer
Helen Mendez—Principal REHS/Assistant to the Health Officer
Laura Scanlon—Public Health Nursing Supervisor
Ellen Shelley—Infectious Disease Program Coordinator
Denise Rizzolo—Covid 19 Generalist
Emily Root—Council Liaison

ABSENT:

Ms. Tara Donnelly—Alternate #1

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Report of the Nominating Committee—Dr. Marcus, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, made a motion to elect Dr. Talmont as President. The motion was seconded by Dr. Budnick, and was approved unanimously by all members present.

Dr. Talmont then asked if there were any nominations for Vice President. Dr. Marcus motioned that the Vice President position be filled with Dr. Budnick, Dr. Talmont seconded and the motion was approved by all members present.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWS MEDIA:

On a motion by Dr. Budnick, seconded by Dr. Marcus, the Westfield Leader, Star Ledger and TAP into Westfield were approved as the official news media for the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Dr. Gorelick, seconded by Mr. Shusteris, Regular Minutes of the December 5, 2022 meeting were approved as amended and ordered filed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration/Consumer Health (Restaurant/Environmental Inspections):

The Health Department, Vital Statistics, Animal Control, Pest Control and Nursing Reports were all accepted as presented and ordered filed on a motion by Dr. Halevy, seconded by Dr. Marcus.

Dr. Talmont presented the Financial Report and the December bills, totaling \$15,222.95 for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Bertsch, seconded by Dr. Gorelick, and the following Roll Call vote was taken:

Dr. Talmont—Aye, Dr. Budnick—Aye, Dr. Gorelick—Aye, Mr. Shusteris—Aye
Mr. Bertsch—Aye, Dr. Halevy—Aye, Dr. Marcus--Aye

The record shall reflect the approval of bills by all members present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Talmont presented the 2023 meeting schedule, which reflects the changes approved at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Talmont presented Resolution 1-2023 authorizing fee waivers for tax exempt organizations, 2-2023 authorizing an agreement with the City of Elizabeth for STD services, and Resolution 3-2023 authorizing an agreement with the Global TB Institute for TB services, Resolution 4-2023 authorizing an agreement with Pest Gone for pest control services, and Resolution 5-2023, authorizing an agreement with Jamie Reedy, MD as Medical Director.

A motion was made by Dr. Gorelick, to approve BOH Resolutions 1-2023 through 5-2023. The motion was seconded by Dr. Halevy, and a Roll Call vote was taken:

Dr. Talmont—Aye, Dr. Budnick—Aye, Dr. Gorelick—Aye, Dr. Marcus—Aye,
Mr. Bertsch—Aye, Dr. Halevy—Aye, Mr. Shusteris—Aye

The record will reflect unanimous approval for BOH Resolutions 1 through 5 2023.

Dr. Talmont presented the 2023 Board of Health Budget. Ms. Avallone reviewed the budget in detail and a short discussion occurred. The budget consisted of an increase of 3% for each contract municipality and a slight increase in the Westfield operating budget. Ms. Avallone explained to the Board that anticipated grant funding will offset the cost of some staff members. A motion was made by Dr. Halevy, to approve the 2023 budget as presented, Dr. Budnick seconded, and a Roll Call vote was taken:

Dr. Talmont—Aye, Dr. Budnick—Aye, Dr. Gorelick—Aye, Dr. Marcus—Aye
Mr. Bertsch—Aye, Dr. Halevy—Aye, Mr. Shusteris—Aye

The record shall reflect approval by all members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Avallone reviewed covid and influenza data. Ms. Avallone informed the Board that influenza like illness continue to cause hospitalizations and emergency department visits. Ms. Avallone informed the Board that over 75% of new covid cases are of the XBB 1.5 strain. This strain is the most transmissible to date, but is not anticipated to be more virulent. Ms. Avallone stated that less than ten percent of children 6 months to two years of age, and fourteen percent of children three to four years of age in Westfield, have completed their primary series. Sixty percent of adults 65-79 years old and 54% of Westfield residents 80 and above have received a bivalent booster.

Ms. Avallone asked the Board if the vital statistics report could be submitted on a quarterly basis as sometimes births take a few weeks to be captured by the electronic system. The Board agreed this would be acceptable.

Mr. Bertsch inquired about youth vaping and Ms. Avallone stated she would get some data from the Municipal Alliance Coordinator.

Dr. Halevy asked if the waiver for tax exempt businesses could be incorporated into the Health Code. Ms. Avallone stated she would come prepared for such at the next meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

CLOSED SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Dr. Gorelick, seconded by Dr. Halevy, and unanimously approved by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Avallone
Board Secretary