

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 6, 2023.**

Pursuant to the rules of the Board of Health of the Town of Westfield, NJ, a meeting was called to order at 5:30PM on Monday, February 6, 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.

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Elizabeth Talmont
Dr. Andrea Marcus
Dr. Steven Gorelick
Mr. Brendan Bertsch
Dr. Daniel Halevy
Mr. Mitchell Shusteris
Ms. Tara Donnelly—Alternate #1
Mr. Steven Pentangelo—Alternate #2

Also Present:

Megan Avallone, MS, RN, REHS—Health Officer
Helen Mendez—Principal REHS/Assistant to the Health Officer
Ellen Shelley—Infectious Disease Program Coordinator
Emily Root—Council Liaison

ABSENT:

Dr. Lawrence Budnick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Dr. Gorelick, seconded by Dr. Halevy, Minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting were approved as amended and ordered filed.

CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS:

Administration/Consumer Health (Restaurant/Environmental Inspections):

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

Dr. Talmont presented the Financial Report and the January bills, totaling \$8,848.27 for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Bertsch, seconded by Dr. Marcus, and the following Roll Call vote was taken:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Talmont presented BOH Ordinance 1-2023, Amending Licensing Fees for First Reading/Introduction. Ms. Avallone explained that this ordinance creates a permanent exemption for 501(c) (3) classified organizations and increases fees for vital records. Ms. Avallone explained that the cost of purchasing safety paper for vital records has increased and the fees have not increased in about a decade.

Dr. Halevy motioned to approve BOH Ordinance 1-2023, seconded by Dr. Marcus, and the following Roll Call vote was taken:

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

The record will reflect unanimous approval for BOH Ordinance 1-2023 by all members present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Avallone reviewed covid and influenza data and informed the Board that in December and January over 75% of residents hospitalized with Covid did not have a bivalent booster. Ms. Avallone informed the Board that in 2022, Westfield had 3,822 cases of Covid reported and through the pandemic 87 residents have died from Covid.

Ms. Avallone informed the Board that after their request she has reached out to the Municipal Alliance Coordinator and there will be a presentation scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

Ann Rosen, of 920 Hillside Avenue in Plainfield, stated that she believes religious exemptions for vaccination is under attack. Ms. Rosen also stated that she believes vaccines such as Tdap does not produce lasting immunity. Ms. Rosen asked the Board to revisit their stance on vaccinations and preserve religious rights.

Dominique Venezia, of 118 Wyoming Street, stated that she believes there have not been studies finding myocarditis and pericarditis in those with post-Covid infections but that she believes there are studies that show myocarditis after Covid vaccination.

Darek Wajda, owner of The Green Room located at 29 Elm Street, stated that the current license fee of \$1,000 for electronic smoking devices (ESD) is cost prohibitive to his business, especially because only ten percent of his sales come from ESD products. In response to his concerns, Dr. Talmont requested that Mr. Shusteris and Mr. Pentangelo join a subcommittee to examine the issue. Dr. Talmont explained to process of examining a fee change to Mr. Wajda.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Dr. Talmont, seconded by Dr. Gorelick, and unanimously approved by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Avallone
Board Secretary