

MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM

AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order by President Sherr with the following statement:

Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of a Special Meeting Notice to the Star Ledger, Courier News and Home News, and posted on the Middlesex Borough Website and at the Municipal Building on March 4, 2021.

Roll Call

Michael Conahan – Vice President
Steve Ember
Melissa Fedosh
Lucy Laranjeiro
Nancy Purcell-Holmes
Karen Rutkowski – Alternate 2
Amelia Sherr - President
Laura Steinau, Alternate 1
Peyton Yanchurak

Others in Attendance: Terry Brundage, SREHS
Councilman Rex, Council Liaison

2. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance No. 145-21

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 141-15 CHAPTER 429 OF THE BOROUGH CODE BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING ARTICLE II MEMBERS, SECTION 429-9 MEETINGS; NOTICES; WAIVER OF NOTICE AND SECTION 429-10 QUORUM AND ADJOURNED MEETINGS

3. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance No. 146-21

ORDINANCE TO RESCIND ORDINANCE NO. 143-17 ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH ON MAY 11, 2017 WHICH AMENDED THE BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH, BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 48, ARTICLE II SETION 6 MEETINGS; NOTICES; WAIVER OF NOTICE

4. Update on Communications with Middlesex County regarding services

- 5. 2021 Budget and 2021 Contract Update**
- 6. Revised 2021 Meeting Schedule**
- 7. Volunteer Recording Secretary**
- 8. Meeting opened to the public**
- 9. Adjournment**

ORDINANCE NO. 145-21

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 429 OF THE BOROUGH CODE BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING ARTICLE II MEMBERS, SECTION 429-9 MEETINGS; NOTICES; WAIVER OF NOTICE AND SECTION 429-10 QUORUM AND ADJOURNED MEETINGS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MIDDLESEX BOARD OF HEALTH THAT:

SECTION 429-9 Meetings; Notices; Waiver of Notice shall be amended to read as follows:

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERS**

SECTION 429-9 Meetings; Notices; Waiver of Notice

- A. The first meeting of the Board of Health after January 1 of each year shall be the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Health, at which time officers shall be elected as provided in Article II, Section 3.
- B. Regular meetings of the Board of Health shall be held monthly on a day and time set by the Board. All meetings will be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975: see also N.J.S.A. 10:4-6). Notice of regular meetings of the Board of Health shall be given to each Member by hand delivery, mail, or email at least three (3) days prior to the day of the meeting.
- C. Special meetings of the Board of Health may be called by the President or upon request of 4 Members. Notice of such meetings must state the purpose. Except in cases of emergency, 48 hours' notice shall be given to the members of a special meeting. All meetings will be held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975: see also N.J.S.A. 10:4-6).
- D. In the event an emergency meeting is required to deal with matters of such importance that delay for the purpose of providing adequate notice (as required above) would likely result in substantial harm to the public interest, such meeting may be held provided it conforms to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-9.
- E. Except as herein provided, the conduct of meetings shall be governed by ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, latest edition.
- F. The order of business for regular meetings shall include, but not be limited to, the following items, which shall be covered in the sequence shown so far as circumstances will permit:
 1. Call to Order
 2. Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Law
 3. Roll Call of Members
 4. Approval of minutes of prior meeting(s)
 5. Executive Session (if necessary)
 6. Reports
 - a. Activities Report
 - b. Registrar's Report
 - c. Board of Health Report
 - d. Other reports
 7. Financial Report/Funds Collected/Payment of Claims
 8. Correspondence
 9. Unfinished Business

10. New Business
11. Public Discussion
12. Adjournment
13. Closed Session (if required)
14. Adjournment of Closed Session

And Section 429-10 Quorum and Adjourned Meetings shall be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 492-10 Quorum and Adjourned Meetings.

- A. At all meetings of the Board of Health, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. For purposes of establishing a quorum, "majority" means more than $\frac{1}{2}$ the total members then presently existing on the Board of Health.
- B. The votes of a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute a valid decision. If at any meeting of the Board of Health there shall be less than a quorum present, the meeting shall be adjourned to a new date.
- C. The vote of a majority of those members present at a Board of health meeting at which a quorum is present shall be necessary for valid action by the Board of Health on any matter except as otherwise provided herein.

Attest:

Carmen Modica, Board Secretary

Amelia Sherr, President

INTRODUCED: February 11, 2021

DATE PUBLICATION
OF INTRODUCTION: February 25, 2021

ADOPTED:

DATE OF PUBLICATION
OF ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 146-21

AN ORDINANCE TO RESCIND ORDINANCE NO. 143-17 ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH ON MAY 11, 2017 WHICH AMENDED THE BY-LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH, BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 48, ARTICLE II SECTION 6 MEETINGS; NOTICES; WAIVER OF NOTICE

The Board of Health hereby rescinds ordinance 143-17 which was adopted by the Board of Health on May 11, 2017.

This ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption and publication as required by law.

ATTEST:

Carmen Modica, Board Secretary

Amelia Sherr, President

INTRODUCED: February 11, 2021

DATE PUBLICATION
OF INTRODUCTION: February 25, 2021

ADOPTED:

DATE OF PUBLICATION
OF ADOPTION:

Microsoft Team Meeting of March 4, 2021

Meeting was arranged through Mr. Pulomena, Administrator Middlesex County

Attendees: John Pulomena, County Administrator; John Carroll, County Director of Government & Public Affairs; Lester Jones, County Health Director/Health Officer; Mayor John Madden, Councilman Doug Rex, Marcia Karrow, Borough Administrator; Michael Conahan, Vice President Board of Health; Amelia Sherr, President Board of Health

At the request of Mr. Pulomena, attached is a summary of points discussed by Amelia Sherr:

- The Middlesex Board of Health has been reaching out to Mr. Lester Jones as our Health Director/Health Officer since 2019 to address concerns and questions
- Initially the request was for his attendance at in person BOH meetings. During the pandemic this was changed to his participation at our teleconference BOH meetings
- The goal is to have him attend our monthly meeting for 15 to 30 minutes of his time
- Mr. Jones has not emailed us, replied to correspondence, or had the courtesy to return our phone calls

Highlights of our Functions of the Board of Health and some examples of current issues as follows:

- 1) *Administrative Responsibility:* Have a competent public health and personal workforce
 - Our Environmental Reports have been tables since our January 2020 BOH meeting. These reports are on an Excel Spreadsheet with data for every town covered by the Middlesex County Health Department. There are numbers listed on these sheets with no explanation of what they mean. Mr. Mickey Gross attended our BOH meeting of February 2020 and as head of this division was unable to explain the Oct, Nov, Dec 2019 environmental reports and deferred this to his Supervisor, Mr. Jones
- 2) *Program Planning:* Goals and objections to address our population needs
 - Even though our BOH recognizes some of our community needs, there is no one at the county to address our concerns with
 - We acknowledge the Covid Statistics available daily to us through the Middlesex County and State website, additional information specific to our borough is needed
For example: age group of positive cases, location of outbreaks, contact tracing. Our goal as a BOH is to assist the county in attempting to reduce the number of positive cases in Middlesex Borough and to protect our residents
- 3) *Evaluation of Organization Effectiveness:* Goal is to consult with our health officer about long range planning of public health needs

- Nonexistent communication with our Health Officer which makes this impossible
- Basic services are not being provided:
 - During a Shingles outbreak among our Senior Citizens several years ago, County Health Department
 - In past, we had B/P clinics for our seniors and Well Baby Clinics for our children
 - Our rabies clinic that this regularly scheduled in Middlesex Borough the first Saturday in November was omitted from this year's rabies clinic schedule. We were informed by our REHS at our February BOH meeting that if we want a clinic, "All we have to do is request one"
- Additional concerns:
 - Interpretation of "Specialized Services" in the Contract
 - What services are available
 - What services have been utilized by our borough residents
 - What is our access to these services?

4) Financial Stewardship- Advocate for appropriate funding

- Develop a budget to support a program plan
- Basic questions need to be addressed about our contract
 - What is the state funding the county receives on our behalf of Middlesex Borough?
 - What grants are typically funded (non-pandemic)?
 - What grants were and now currently available during this Pandemic (Noted that the Cares Act paid for 2 quarters of the contract last year)
 - What grants are available to us that we as a BOH can apply for

Our current Board of Health includes 4 members (if we include our mayor as a past BOH member), we collectively have over 50 years of service to the BOH of Middlesex. These members were instrumental in changing our health service contract to the Middlesex County Health Department approximately 10 years ago. When services were initiated at the County Health Department , David Papi, Health Director/Health Officer was responsive to our needs. He answered our phone calls, attended meetings, and brought in representatives of his various departments including: Nursing, Health Education, and Environment Division. He had assured us we had access to all services and would make members of his team available to us as needed.

These members were astounded about the declining services Middlesex Borough currently receives. Mr. Jones has been at the opposite end of the spectrum of Mr. Papi.

Our goal is to resolve these issues and with your help, Mr. Pulomena. We are optimistic you can facilitate the communication we deserve from Mr. Jones. We want to get back to being provided with both quality and efficient health services to meet our community needs at reasonable costs.