

Virtual Regular Meeting of the Haworth
Board of Health on December 10, 2020
via Zoon.

PRESENT: Karen Eigen, MD - President
Jennie Li, MD - Vice President
Karl Bednarek, MD
Damien Davis, MD
Gregory Kaufman, MD
Barbara Paller – EMS Liaison
Nancy Polifroni, RN
Melissa Davidson, MD, Alternate 1

Louis Apa, Sanitarian
Jacqueline Guenego, Council Liaison

ABSENT: Jamie Heit, LCSW

Dr. Eigen called the meeting to order and upon roll call, the above Members were present.

Due notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

In essence, the following transpired.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 2020 meeting were reviewed.

Dr. Li moved to accept the minutes as presented.

Seconded by Dr. Davidson and upon voice vote, was unanimously carried.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Paller was not able to give a report this evening since the Board's correspondence was not available.

SANITARIAN'S REPORT

Mr. Apa reported on the following:

- A Korean restaurant moved in on Terrace Street and an inspection was completed.

Mr. Apa told the Board that he had handed in his resignation effective December 31, 2020. He said that he had been working for the Borough since 1994, then he and Mrs. O'Dowd talked about how it all came to be. That is, Mrs. Contillo had been serving on the Board of Health and she suggested that the members interviewed Mr. Apa. They did and the rest is history.

Mr. Apa explained how the County presently worked with Sanitarians, who are now called Environmental Health Specialists, and how they no longer had Specialists assigned to a particular town. Additionally, Mrs. Fay checked and found out that they were very expensive. Mr. Apa talked about the changes at the Bergen County Department of Health and their three new health departments. He said that he has been in touch with Sanitarians to find out who might be interested and available. Anyone who responds would be referred to Dr. Eigen. In the meantime, Mr. Apa said he would be available to work for the Borough until someone was found.

Everyone agreed that they wanted to have one person assigned to the Borough rather than whoever was available at the time to do inspections, follow up with complaints, etc.

The members said they were sad to hear that Mr. Apa was leaving and that he would be missed.

COUNCIL REPORT

Councilwoman Guenego stated that the numbers have gone up drastically over the last three week – they were at 80 or 90 cases and there was a big spike in ambulance calls. She said she didn't have any information about the vaccine.

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COVID UPDATE

Dr. Eigen reported that the vaccine would be available around December 21st. She said that the Hackensack University Medical Center had sent out a request for volunteers to administer the vaccine and she would be volunteering for three weeks.

Dr. Davidson said it was announced that Holy Name Hospital was getting a supply of vaccine too.

Dr. Eigen also reported that the number of Covid cases were going up, that it was very random, and they could not predict what to expect.

There was discussion about the types of Covid tests and which ones they felt were most accurate.

Mrs. Polifroni said that things were going well at the Haworth School. She reported that there had been two cases but in each case, it was a parent who tested positive and brought the virus home. She said they were doing a good job of protecting the children at school.

Mrs. Polifroni also talked about the additional precautions they are taking at the school such as installing Plexiglas in the areas where the children are having snacks. She reported that the Haworth School would continue to be closed until the 14th and the parents have been very cooperative and wonderful.

Dr. Eigen noted that it was found that the communities whose schools were closed had more cases than those whose schools were opened and safe.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Dr. Eigen stated that the next meeting of this Board would be held on January 14th, at 7 p.m. via Zoon.

Respectfully submitted,

 /s/
Dolores Fazio O'Dowd