

**HARDING TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF HEALTH
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Special Meeting Minutes

Dr. Cervone called the special meeting of the Harding Township Board of Health to order on March 18, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., and announced the meeting was called in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:

Secretary Sharp called the following Board of Health members in attendance. *Let the record show that Mr. Platt is attending via telephone.*

BOH Attendance: Dr. Joseph Cervone, Mrs. DiTosto, Dr. Stephen Kao (arrived 6:33 pm), Dr. Nicole Lacz, Mrs. Christina McKittrick, and Mr. Nicolas Platt (via telephone)

Absent: Mr. Boyan

Health Department Attendance: Mrs. Lisa Sharp and Mr. George Byrnes

BOH Counsel: Mr. Joseph Sordillo, Board of Health Attorney

Public: 1

APPROVAL OF SEPTIC PERMIT EXTENSION:

First Septic Permit Extension for: Steve McCann, Block 6, Lot 13.05, 65 Village Road

Mr. Byrnes provided the Board with the following update. The septic was approved late 2018 early 2019. It has been over one year and the septic permit requires an extension to their permit. The septic is located in the front of the house. They did not want to drive over the septic during construction of the house and are now ready to install the septic.

Dr. Cervone asked for a motion to approve the septic permit extension for 65 Village Road. Upon a motion made by Mrs. DiTosto, seconded by Dr. Lacz, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the septic permit for 65 Village Road was extended for one year.

Let the record show that Dr. Kao arrived at 6:33 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD AND HEARING PERSONS PRESENT:

Dr. Cervone informed the Board that Dr. Carlos Perez, Jr., sent an update regarding the COVID-19. A copy has been appended to these minutes.

Dr. Cervone asked Mrs. Sharp to provide an update to a conference call that was held. Mrs. Sharp reported that a conference call was held with Dr. Cervone, Mr. Byrnes, myself, Mr. Falzarano, and Mayor Yates regarding an email from one of the food establishments regarding curb side pick-up. The direction was for Mr. Byrnes to contact Dr. Perez or Mrs. Gorman to see if there were any licensing or permitting requirements for the retail food establishments to do this. Mr. Byrnes reported that there were no licensing or permitting requirements for

the restaurants to provide delivery and take out. Mr. Byrnes sent an email to all restaurants with this information. Mr. Byrnes has also been keeping the restaurants informed of any information they are required to have.

Dr. Cervone asked Mr. Spelker, Superintendent of Harding Township School to provide an update. Mrs. DiTosto and several members of the Board mentioned that Mr. Spelker has done a great job with the school's roll out regarding remote learning. Mr. Spelker reported that the community has been very supportive and very supportive of the teachers. About 95 percent of the faculty are working from home. There are three to four faculty members that are in but that will change. Currently, the grounds people are in and the sanitation are in at night. We want to limit exposure. If a resident needs to come in and retrieve work due to they were out on that Friday, they can come in, acquire the work, and then quickly leave. A question was asked if there will be physical education. Mr. Spelker mentioned hopefully by the end of the week. The physical education is slightly more challenging. A question was asked if hygiene could be reinforced. Mr. Spelker reported that the Nurse visited all the classrooms and reinforced good hygiene. A discussion on when Mr. Spelker believed what the next touch point for the School would be. Mr. Spelker explained that the State closed down today and Mr. Sordillo, BOH Attorney mentioned that the school cannot reopen until the State of Emergency and Executive Order have been rescinded.

A question was asked about what happens with the 8th graders that will be going into High School. Mr. Spelker explained that he will contact the Madison Superintendent and discuss this. Mr. Spelker mentioned that there is a trip to Washington, D.C. in mid-May for the 8th graders. We are monitoring this and will have to make a decision soon on whether to continue or cancel.

A discussion on whether the Board of Health should continue weekly meetings ensued. Mr. Sordillo, BOH Attorney, explained with the Governor's State of Emergency and Executive Orders, the County is the vested local power and enacts the policy. A discuss ensued. It was decided that the BOH weekly meetings would not be required. Mr. Sordillo mentioned that the Board of Health can make recommendations and ask opinions. For now, the Board will keep their April 9th scheduled meeting at 7:30 p.m. If this changes, Mrs. Sharp will send out notices. The Board thanked Mr. Spelker for attending.

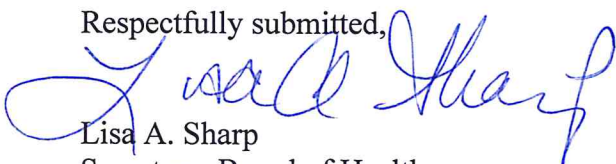
Dr. Cervone thanked Mr. Falzarano and Mrs. Sharp for all their efforts during this challenging time. Dr. Cervone asked how the first responders were doing with masks, gowns, gloves. Mrs. Sharp mentioned that the First Aid Squad believes they currently have enough. The Police are short on masks and gloves. Dr. Kao mentioned he dropped off a box of masks to the Police Department. Dr. Cervone mentioned that these items have been difficult to receive. Dr. Lacz reported that there are three Med Express Labs that are conducting the COVID-19 test; East Brunswick, Totowa, and Rockaway. The criteria for the labs are: symptoms and risk of exposure. Dr. Cervone mentioned that his practice is doing the Telemedicine.

Mrs. Sharp will continue to provide updates by email to all Board members.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business, a motion to adjourn was duly made by Mrs. DiTosto, seconded by Mrs. McKittrick, and with a vote of all ayes, none opposed, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Sharp
Secretary, Board of Health

TO: Lisa Sharp
FROM: Dr. Carlos Perez, Jr., Health Officer
DATE: March 18, 2020

NUMBER OF CASES

As of today, there are 427 confirmed cases in NJ today. Total fatalities in NJ stands at 5.

ROLE & AUTHORITY OF COUNTY HEALTH AGENCIES DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

The County Office of Health Management (OHM) is a Division of the County's Department of Law & Public Safety. As a Division of the Department, all emergency planning is performed in coordination with the County Office of Emergency Management under the Direction of County Director of Law & Public Safety.

The State's twenty-one counties are covered by a County LINCS agency which serves as the lead public health emergency preparedness agency for the County and the LINCS agency Health Officer works under the direction of the State Commissioner of Health during such emergencies and under the Emergency Health Powers Act. The Office of Health Management serves as Morris County's LINCS agency and the County Health Officer serves as the LINCS Health Officer.

LINCS agencies including OHM have plans and perform annual drills/exercises for communicable disease outbreaks and bioterrorist incidents.

County LINCS agencies are staffed by professionals in public health risk communication, communicable disease control, and manage the County's Medical Reserve Corps, which is comprised of public health and medical professionals. OHM has activated the Corps for assistance.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL ACTIVITIES

All communicable disease control activities are under the direction of the local Health Officer, are guided by NJDOH Communicable Disease Service, CDC/NJDOH protocols, and regulations. Our principal focus at present is identifying cases, implementing quarantines/isolation, protecting our most vulnerable residents, and preventing spread.

Our office has developed and distributed educational materials along with CDC guidance documents to schools, community groups, long term care facilities, and businesses.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING

To ensure consistent and proper messaging, CDC and NJDOH guidance documents and procedures for COVID-19 are to be used/followed at all times.

The County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has provided regular conference calls, training, and guidance documents from NJDOH/CDC to local Police, EMS, and first responders. I have communicated with the Township Chief of Police and assisted with any guidance as well.

Conference calls have also been held with local OEM, school superintendents, social service agencies, and elected officials. Elected officials may report information from those calls to appointed boards.

Arrangements have been made with our County Communications Center (a Division under the County Dept. of Law & Public Safety) to ensure that a flag is added to the dispatch system for any residence where we have positive case or a person under isolation/quarantine. We follow specific guidelines set by the NJDOH and Attorney General for adding information. No protected health information is added to the computerized dispatch software – just a flag which indicated PPE must be donned.

Local Office of Emergency Management receives information and direction from the Morris County Office of Emergency Management. The Local Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible to disseminate information to the Local Emergency Service Providers (Police, Fire, EMS). The Local Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible to disseminate information to the public and issue a local Emergency Declaration.

OHM and County have risk communications staff and to handle media inquiries and press releases.

OHM staff are working 24/7 to handle calls and assist residents, healthcare providers, and community partners.

The County Health Officer and OHM staff have conference calls with the NJDOH. These calls are limited to local health officers only.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The State is working to ensure adequate PPE for hospitals, public health, and others.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The County Health Officer, in consultation with County superiors, is examining other mitigation strategies to prevent spread including county-wide measures.

The NJDOH will be setting drive-through testing sites in each county. This initiative will be under the direction the NJDOH and implemented by the County Department of Law & Public Safety, OHM.

The Board may recommend measures to mitigate spread (e.g. closure of additional areas where persons may congregate). These may be relayed to the Health Officer and Township Committee. The Health Officer will relay requests to County OEM and his superiors. As per the County Prosecutor's Office:

“There has been a lot of questions about how the Governor's Executive Order applies to specific stores or situations. All issues like this should be sent through your County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to the State OEM. Under the executive order, all authority to make amendments and clarifications to the rules governing business closures rests with the head of the OEM (aka the Colonel of the New Jersey State Police).”

Carlos Perez, Jr., Ph.D.
Health Officer
County of Morris
Department of Law & Public Safety
Office of Health Management
P.O. Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963
(973) 631-5485
(973) 631-5490 Fax



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