

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

Notice of this meeting being held via Zoom was posted on the Bergenfield Website, sent by e-mail to the Record, Twin-Boro News and Cablevision. It was placed on two bulletin boards in the Municipal Building and placed on file in the Borough Clerk's Office.

### ROLL CALL

Dr. Cheriyan  
Mrs. Pfannen  
Mr. Cabuhat  
Dr. Quiroz  
Mrs. Marte

Also present Mr. Gallo, Mr. Yanovich, Ms. August, Mrs. Williams and K. Williams

### OPEN HEARING

Mr. Gallo reported that on behalf of the Mayor and Council, he is informing the Board that they have decided not to renew the contract with Mid-Bergen for 2021 for shared services and referenced three incidents that determined this decision. A discussion took place regarding the fact that this decision was made without consulting the Board of Health and without giving them the opportunity to respond to the allegations. All three allegations were answered by the Health Officer Mr. Yanovich, President Dr. Cheriyan, and Vice President Mrs. Pfannen. Mr. Gallo responded by saying that he was only the messenger for the Mayor and Council. Mr. Gallo also stated that the Mayor and Council have decided to return to the County Shared Services for the Health Officer and REHS. Dr. Cheriyan objected citing the failed performance and dissatisfaction that had been experienced with their previous contracted services. Also citing that the Bergenfield Board of Health is autonomous, and it is their responsibility per NJ State statutes to choose their employees and services. Mr. Gallo replied that the Mayor and Council "have the power of the purse". The Board requested a meeting with the Mayor and Council to discuss this decision. Mr. Gallo stated that he will relay this message to the Governing Body and also stated that they could attend the closed session meeting at the next Mayor and Council meeting in November to discuss the issues mentioned and the Mid-Bergen Contract for 2021. Mr. Gallo also praised Ms. Kayla Williams, R.E.H.S. with Mid-Bergen on her excellent work this past year in Bergenfield.

The Board continued the conversation after Mr. Gallo left to attend another meeting. The Board members expressed displeasure with the decision and all three allegations as misleading and false. All Board members were unanimous in their satisfaction with the services provided by Mid-Bergen. The consensus of the Board was to meet with the Governing Body to discuss the Mid-Bergen contract and the issues mentioned by Mr. Gallo. This conversation continued under "Verbal Communication".

There being no one else present who wished to be heard, on a motion by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried the time for Open Hearings was closed.

### MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting of September 2020 be accepted as written.

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

Mrs. Williams stated that on behalf of President Cheriyan, Purchase Orders have been signed by Mrs. Williams and submitted. A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen, seconded by Mr. Cabuhat and carried that the following bills were paid.

MGL Forms	484.00
W.B. Mason	425.49
RR Donnelly	252.00

**REPORTS**

**Legal and Finance**

“Progress”

**Medical**

“Progress”

**Personnel**

“Progress”

**Publicity**

A post on the Website and in the Record regarding the Board of Health meeting.

A post on the Website regarding the drive-thru flu vaccination clinics scheduled for October 15, 2020, October 22, 2020 and October 27, 2020.

**Liaison To Mayor & Council**

“No Report due to the absence of Councilman Deauna”

**Legislature & Regulatory**

“Progress”

**Written Reports of the Department**

Mr. Yanovich reported that there’s been an increase of positive cases, anywhere from 10-15% in most towns. Activity is moderate at this time with closures, limited sports activities and school closures in some town. The contact tracing is in full force thanks to the nurses and the investigators who are doing a great job.

Ms. Kayla Williams reported that Recreation Sports have been proactive in establishing protocol and procedures to assure the health and safety of the teams.

Ms. August reported that to date there are no Bergenfield residents hospitalized for COVID-19. Contact tracing is going strong and successful. Cases are being assigned to staff members and also to contact tracers independently paid to free the staff so they can continue with their daily responsibilities. Residents call in with many questions and concerns regarding COVID-19 that need to be addressed on a daily basis. Ms. August also reported on the successful drive-through flu clinics. The residents were very appreciative and thankful. Ms. August stated that the drive-through clinic is a great practice for when the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, there will be a plan in place. A short discussion took place regarding the COVID-19 testing that took place in town, residents were calling the Health Department to ask when they should expect their results.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried that the written September 2020 Reports of the Department be accepted as written.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Letter sent to Monsignor Arnols from Ms. August thanking him on behalf of the Health Department and the Bergenfield School nurses. St. John the Evangelist Church donated medical supplies for the community, such as bandages and blood pressure kits.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 1. Nail Salon Inspection Ordinance-Final Reading

A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen, seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried that the Nail Salon Inspection Ordinance be read for the second and final reading by title only.

Mrs. Pfannen read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, BOARD OF HEALTH ENTITLED "COSMETOLOGY" TO ADDRESS HEALTH AND SAFETY RELATED ISSUES"

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Board of Health be authorized to advertise in The Record, a newspaper in this county and circulated in this Borough, the introduction and notice of final hearing of this ordinance as required by law.

The said ordinance will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. On roll call, all members present voted "yes".

#### 2. Day Care Inspection/Fees Ordinance

A motion was made by Mrs. Pfannen, seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried that the Day Care Inspection Ordinance be read for the second and final reading by title only.

Mrs. Pfannen read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD, BOARD OF HEALTH ENTITLED "CHILD CARE CENTERS" TO ADDRESS HEALTH AND SAFETY RELATED ISSUES"

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Board of Health be authorized to advertise in The Record, a newspaper in this county and circulated in this Borough, the introduction and notice of final hearing of this ordinance as required by law.

The said ordinance will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. On roll call, all members present voted "yes".

**NEW BUSINESS****1. COVID-19 Testing Kit**

Ms. August reported that we received what appears to be a COVID-19 detector kit from the State of New Jersey at no cost to the Borough. Ms. August feels that additional components would need to be purchased to utilize this kit which would probably be a cost to the Borough. A short discussion took place regarding whether COVID-19 Rapid testing is something the Health Department would be interested in doing, the cost of the additional material needed and the manpower.

President Cheriyan suggested getting more information regarding the kit and possibly get the company to do a demonstration to see how it works and if it's even something to consider.

**VERBAL COMMUNITION**

A conversation took place between the Board regarding the current news received by Mr. Gallo not renewing the contract with Mid-Bergen for shared services. The Board feels their opinion was not taken into consideration in making the decision to terminate the Contract, especially since the Board is autonomous and it should be the decision of the Board per the NJ State Statute. The Board feels that the issues that Mr. Gallo referred to for terminating the contract and in particular the issue he had with Mr. Yanovich were not substantiated and denied by Mr. Yanovich.

The Board feels that the Governing Body is not fairly informed of the daily activities of the Health Department. The only report they are getting is from Mr. Gallo and feel that's not a fair representation. The Board feels the services provided by Mid-Bergen were superior to the County's services for the two years prior with a lower cost per capita.

Mr. Cabuhat believes that both the Governing Body and the Board of Health have the best interest of the town in mind but there seems to be a lack of communication between the two and that's unfortunate since everyone is on the same page about the health and safety of the community. He stated that there also seems to be a difference of opinion as far as who the Health Officer answers to and that could be another problem since it's his understanding now that Mr. Yanovich is an employee of the Board of Health and answers to them.

Dr. Quiroz stated that it would only seem fair for the Board to be notified by Mayor and Council when a matter pertaining to the Health Department is being discussed at their meeting. Dr. Quiroz also stated that moving forward, a representative for the Board of Health should attend the Mayor and Council meeting.

Mr. Yanovich stated that the Board has two doctors and two nurses and a social worker on the Board capable of making decisions that are best for the community as far as what entity is more effective and more accessible. It would make sense to contract with Mid-Bergen who services 14 towns as opposed to the County that services 33. Mr. Yanovich feels that not renewing the contract is a personal dislike for him unfairly by Mr. Gallo, he thanked the Board for all their support and stated that he's been happy working with this Board and hopes this can be resolved.

Ms. August stated that she sometimes feels her work is being questioned, Ms. August stated she is very capable of working under any condition, she has been through pandemics before, was involved in the inception of CDRS and resents feeling anxious about coming to work every day. The Board stated that's unacceptable and this issue will be also discussed with the Mayor and Council.

Mrs. Marte stated that she was aware of some of the issues we were having based on past conversations but was shocked at the decision to terminate the contract. She needs time to process this news but stated that the Mayor and Council and the Board need to find common grounds and be able to work together.

Dr. Cheriyan concluded the discussion by saying that all the Board ever requested was to be informed, notified and included in any decision that is being made regarding the Health Department before the decision is made but have never been given that consideration or respect.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Pfannen seconded by Dr. Quiroz and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Felicia Williams  
Registrar of Vital Statistics