



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**TOWNSHIP OF MONTGOMERY
BOARD OF HEALTH
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**7:30 PM
November 8th, 2023
Meeting Location – Meeting Chambers**

“It is the intention of the Board to conclude this meeting by 9:30pm. Any Agenda item not considered by 9:30pm will be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting”

I. OPENING STATEMENT – Adequate notice of the meeting as required by sections 3(d) and 4(a) of the Open Public Meeting Act has been provided to the public and filed with the Township Clerk.

II. BOARD MEMBERS – Dr. McGeary (X), Dr. Grayson (X) Dr. Newman (X),
Dr. Saraiya (X), Dr. Faisal (A), Dr. Sharma (X), Dr. Wolfson (A)

Alternate 1: Dr. O’Mara (X)

Alternate 2: Dr. Mohan (A)

HEALTH OFFICER – Devangi Patel - X

STAFF SECRETARY – Jennifer Foster - X

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE LIASON: — Neena Singh - X

ADVISOR – Dr. Mandelbaum - X

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

The Board of Health welcomes and encourages input from the public.

Members of the public are allotted one opportunity to bring any new business to the Board for a maximum of three (3) minutes per speaker. All comments or questions are to be directed to the board before you make your comment, please state your name, address and subject matter. Being mindful of privacy rights regarding department of health employees and to avoid any potential liability on the part of the speaker, the board discourages references to specific individuals. While directing your comments or questions to the board, please understand that the public comment portions of the meeting are not structured as question and answer sessions but rather are offered as opportunities for you to share your thoughts with the board. The board president may need to refer an issue to the health officer representing the department of health if the particular issue has not been handled through the appropriate chain of command with the department of health before coming to the board for a response.

Responses may be provided at the end of this session. There are times when comments and questions will require additional information gathering before a response is provided.

We thank you for your understanding and respect the rules of order. We open the agenda to and welcome public comment at this time.

No Public Comment at the November Meeting.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed hereunder are considered routine in nature and will be approved in one motion. Any member request that an item(s) be removed for separate consideration:

A. MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Health Department Monthly Report – October 2023
2. Communicable Disease Report – October 2023
3. Animal Control Report – October 2023

- B. **MINUTES APPROVED:** The minutes of the regular meetings of the Board of Health held on October 11, 2023

Motion to Approve: Dr. Grayson **Seconded:** Dr. Sharma

V. Health Officers Comments –

Draft Strategic Plan – Health Department is currently working on a 2025 Strategic Plan Draft. Staff has been compiling objectives from different areas that are either a requirement or an identified need in town. Typically, the Board of Health acts as the planning committee for the strategic plan, however, since we are at the tail end of our current 5-year cycle, Ms. Patel stated the importance of having a final draft. The plan is also one of the requirements for our national accreditation.

The plan involves consolidating goals and objectives from diverse sources, including the Healthier Somerset Community Health Improvement Plan—a county-wide initiative that has outlined goals and objectives for a three-year implementation cycle. While not all the goals and objectives directly relate to Montgomery, we have incorporated some of them into our plan.

The plan also integrates objectives from Sustainable New Jersey, where townships can engage in various modules to earn points. Depending on the total points accumulated by Montgomery, the township will be categorized for a bronze, silver, or gold health award status.

The Opioid Settlement Fund also has objectives that will align with Municipal Alliance, Mayors Wellness Campaign and Youth Services Commission. These are all organizations focused on mental health and wellness, substance use prevention. This will constitute a distinct area of emphasis concerning education and program requirements in the town.

Equity focused objectives from the Public Health Accreditation Board. The board members will be asked to help in this areas of focus to help with standard operating procedures, plans and implementing equity in our current activities.

Should the board members want to be more heavily involved they are welcome to join any of the Healthier Somerset Working Groups.

Health Department Data Collection Plan – Based on needs or issues that are identified the Health Department participates in various forms of data collection either through focus groups, key informant interviews or surveys. In the past we have had high school students help with implementing surveys. There has been a struggle getting good hyperlocal data. As the demands in town increase, it will become essential to utilize this data for effective resource allocation in order to meet these growing needs.

Grant Updates – The Health Department is presently engaged in the implementation of the Strengthening Grant, which centers around providing education on vector-borne diseases, respiratory viruses, and foodborne illnesses. Key deliverables include outreach to healthcare providers. In addressing foodborne diseases, our emphasis will be on restaurants, with an aim to enhance proactive education through increased training. This involves educating food establishments on how to respond in emergencies such as water main breaks or power outages. It's important to note that the Health Department, in its role of enforcing State Public Health Laws, adheres to specific guidelines that cannot be deviated from.

Operation Iron Horse – Emergency Preparedness, Chemical Surge Exercise December 7th 2023 – Training is provided by the New Jersey Healthcare Coalition. Training is from 10am to 1pm. If any of the board members are interested in attending, please let Health Officer Patel know.

Opioid Settlement Public Information Session November 15th 2023 – Training in Somerville from 1pm to 2:30pm. Please again reach out to Health Officer Patel for more information on how and where to attend.

Dale Carnegie Trainings – These programs have been very helpful to staff for workforce development trainings. The main focus is for those who are new to the Public Health Workforce and for emerging leaders.

Animal Control Update – The Health Department has been working with Animal Control Solutions and things are working smoothly. Pet licensing for the upcoming year starting in January 2024 will be moving to the Clerk’s Office. Ms. Foster will be working with the Clerk’s Office for a smooth transition.

VI. New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment- Having no further business to discuss the meeting will now adjourn at 8:09pm
Motion to adjourn was moved by Dr. Grayson seconded by Dr. Sharma

Next Meeting: December 13th will be a joint Board of Health meeting with Rocky Hill. Reception will begin at 7pm followed by meeting to begin at 7:30. Light refreshments will be served at 7:00pm.