

Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2020

PRESENT: Board President Nadine Benoit and Boardmembers Heidi Askin, Maria Crean, Robin Iversen, Christopher Martin, Linda Morgan, and Susan Toron
(*via teleconference*)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Communications John Gil (*via teleconference*)
Borough Sanitarian Kristin Caperino (*via teleconference*)
Police Chief George Scherb (*via teleconference*)

A Regular Session Meeting of the Board of Health of the Borough of Allendale was held on November 5, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the public was provided via GoToMeeting teleconferencing only, with adequate notice of same posted for public viewing. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Benoit who reminded the public to mute their devices so as not to distract from the business at hand. President Benoit confirmed that the open public meetings requirements had been satisfied.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Ms. Iversen, second by Ms. Morgan, with no objections and all members present in favor, that the Minutes of the October 1, 2020 Regular Session be approved as amended.

Secretary/Registrar Report:

Mr. Gil reported that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Adult and Child Health Clinics have been suspended until further notice. The Vital Statistics Monthly Report was received from Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission for October with four marriage certificates and three marriage license having been issued for a total of \$124.00 to the Borough. Three deaths were reported.

Mr. Gil updated the Board as to why the death counts were not present and that the Borough had updated the information with the State for Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission to receive that information. Mr. Gil also stated that Carmen Nist of Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission informed him that births are not provided by the State.

Communications/Correspondence:

None

Health Officer/Sanitarian Reports:

Ms. Caperino gave an overview of the inspections reported from Bergen County. Board President Benoit inquired about COVID 25% occupancy guidelines and compliance. Ms. Caperino replied that this is discussed is had when the County does its compliance assistance. It is important when there are occupancy issues to contact the local police departments for enforcement. Discussions on posting of occupancy rates were had.

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Old Business:

Boardmember Askin gave an update on the USRA Coalition.

Mr. Gil gave an update on the rabies clinic with possible ideas on how to proceed regarding the locations and logistics of the event.

New Business:

Board President Benoit informed the Board that the tents in town, according to the ordinance in the borough, are technically scheduled to come down at the end of November unless there is another ordinance that comes in and the tents are inspected that they are winter safe. She also discussed other issues in regards to the outdoor tents.

She continued with discussing the Governor's Executive Order setting the indoor restaurant occupancy rate at 25% as well as updating the Board on the status of Allendale's schools.

President's Report:

Board President Benoit reported that according to the State's COVID website, New Jersey is in a "Moderate COVID Zone". As of November 3rd, we had 158 positive cases, overall, since the beginning of the pandemic. New Jersey currently has 1,224 hospitalizations. The overall state positivity rate for COVID is over 7.74% with the "North Region" a little bit higher at 8.7%. Hospitalizations in the "North Region" are 648. There are 238 critical care beds currently with 36% on mechanical ventilation.

She continued to update the Board on the travel advisories issued by the State of New Jersey. President Benoit also shared from the Public Health Nurse that the COVID testing is a snapshot in time and if you are in a quarantine period for 14 days, if you test on day six negative, it doesn't mean that you're OK. If you are exposed, you need to quarantine for 14 days.

President Benoit shared an article from the CDC giving a framework for resuming safe and responsible cruise ship traveling. She then gave data from the State's website on the overall impact on the schools in Bergen County.

Questions were asked about what areas are included in the "North Region" figures as well as clarifying the counts.

Boardmember Iversen inquired about members signing up for the COVID Alert NJ Tracker application. A discussion on the application was had.

Boardmember Martin inquired about wildlife proceeded by a discussion on deer and a recent bear in the borough.

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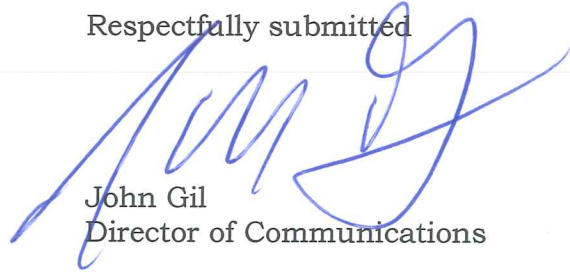
Public Comment:

Sgt. Terry Lawler informed the Board that the OEM group would start meeting due to the uptick in COVID case. President Benoit gave the background of the OEM group.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board of Health, on a motion by Ms. Iversen, with second by Ms. Morgan, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



John Gil
Director of Communications