



**BOROUGH OF
WALLINGTON, NJ
Incorporated December 31, 1894**

**24 Union Boulevard
Wallington, NJ 07057
Tel: 973-777-0318**

*From the Office of:
Wallington Board of Health
973-777-0318 ext. 214
health@wallingtonnj.org*

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING WALLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH DECEMBER 13, 2023

THE DECEMBER 13TH, 2023 MEETING OF THE WALLINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT DONNA TOMKO AT 7:01 P.M. AT THE CIVIC CENTER CITING THAT THE RULES OF THE SUNSHINE LAW WERE FOLLOWED WITH RESPECT TO ADVERTISING SAID MEETING.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: PATRICIA BARNAS, BARBARA PINTO, MAGDALENA THOMPSON, MARYANN PALMER, DONNA TOMKO, NANCY CHIRLO,

ABSENT: ROSEMARY SANDOR

ALSO PRESENT: MARTA GOLDYN, BOARD SECRETARY/CMR
VALERIA MELENDEZ– MID-BERGEN REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION
JAMES “JIM” FEDORKO – HEALTH OFFICER
HALINA DABROWSKA, REHS
JON SONTZ, ESQ, BOH ATTORNEY
COUNCILWOMAN BEATA BALIK – BOARD LIAISON

FLAG SALUTE

NO CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PALMER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 18, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS TYPED. SECONDED BY **CHIRLO**.

ROLL CALL: AYE: PINTO, THOMPSON, PALMER, TOMKO, CHIRLO
ABSTAIN: BARNAS

HEARING OF CITIZENS

NO CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD.



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REPORTS:

- HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT:

JIM FEDORKO, THE HEALTH OFFICER, PRESENTED A DETAILED REPORT. HE BEGAN BY THANKING EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING THE MID-BERGEN OPEN HOUSE. HIS REPORT INVOLVED DISCUSSIONS ON VARIOUS HEALTH-RELATED TOPICS, INCLUDING PET LICENSING AND RABIES.

MR. FEDORKO PRESENTED GRAPHS ILLUSTRATING TERRESTRIAL RABIES CASES IN NEW JERSEY, BAT RABIES CASES, AND THE NUMBER OF RABIES CASES IN BERGEN COUNTY, EMPHASIZING THE ENDEMIC NATURE OF RABIES IN THE REGION. MR. FEDORKO HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATING DOMESTIC DOGS AND CATS TO PREVENT RABIES AND DISCUSSED EFFORTS TO INCREASE LICENSING RATES. HE PROPOSED A GOAL OF ACHIEVING A 10% INCREASE IN LICENSING RATES IN 2024. VALERIA MELENDEZ FROM MID-BERGEN OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN PROMOTING VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS. THE BOARD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING A PET CENSUS TO TRACK VACCINATION RATES AND CONSIDERED HIRING INDIVIDUALS OR PROVIDING COMMUNITY HOURS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, FOR THE TASK. JIM FEDORKO BROUGHT UP A PROPOSAL FROM THE "SAVE A LIFE" PROGRAM, OFFERING COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH TESTS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS. THE BOARD DISCUSSED THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROGRAM. VALERIA MELENDEZ FROM MID-BERGEN MENTIONED THE DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 TEST KITS AND SOUGHT INPUT ON WHERE TO ALLOCATE THEM IN WALLINGTON, SUGGESTING THE SENIOR CENTER AND LIBRARY AS POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

- REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REPORT

HALINA DABROWSKA, THE REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST (REHS), REPORTED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY AND THAT EVERYTHING IN WALLINGTON WAS INTACT. ROUTINE INSPECTIONS WERE UP TO DATE, AND RESIDENTS WERE GENERALLY COMPLIANT WITH HEALTH REGULATIONS.

- COUNTY OF BERGEN ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT
- BOARD OF HEALTH/REGISTRAR DEPOSIT REPORT

THE BOH SECRETARY PRESENTED REPORTS ON ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PATROLLING THE AREA, RESPONDING TO CALLS ABOUT ANIMALS, AND PROVIDING STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. MS. GOLDDYN ALSO REPORTED ON RECENT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND RESTAURANT OPENINGS.



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DURING THE MEETING, THE BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSSED THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CHICKEN COOPS AND THE NEED FOR REGULATIONS IF THE BOARD DECIDES TO ALLOW THEM. MEMBERS EXPRESSED VARYING OPINIONS ON ALLOWING CHICKENS, WITH SOME MENTIONING INSTANCES FROM OTHER TOWNS. THE CONVERSATION TOUCHED ON THE NEED FOR RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING CHICKEN COOPS, THEIR APPEARANCE, AND PROXIMITY TO PROPERTY LINES. CONCERNS WERE RAISED ABOUT POTENTIAL NOISE, ODORS, AND THE NEED FOR A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.

MOTION WAS MADE TO CONDUCT FURTHER RESEARCH AND PURSUE CHANGES TO THE ORDINANCE.

ROLL CALL: AYE: BARNAS, THOMPSON

NAY: PINTO, PALMER, TOMKO, CHIRLO

OLD BUSINESS:

THE BOH SECRETARY SHARED INFORMATION ON THE 2024 RABIES CLINIC - 36 DOGS AND 9 CATS VACCINATED.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD DISCUSSED MEETING DATES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR, WITH SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOLIDAYS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS.

A MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS HANDICAP PARKING APPLICANTS MADE BY **PALMER**, SECOND BY **CHIRLO**.

ROLL CALL: AYE: BARNAS, PINTO, THOMPSON, PALMER, TOMKO, CHIRLO

A MOTION TO RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS MADE BY **PINTO**, SECONDED BY **PALMER**.

ROLL CALL: AYE: BARNAS, PINTO, THOMPSON, PALMER, TOMKO, CHIRLO

HANDICAP APPLICATIONS:

- SQUAD HAZZA – 40 BROOK AVE – DESIGNATED

MOTION WAS MADE BY **PALMER** AND SECONDED BY **CHIRLO** TO DENY THE APPLICATION.



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ROLL CALL: AYE: BARNAS, PINTO, THOMPSON, PALMER, TOMKO, CHIRLO

- SLIWINSKA BARBARA – 141 HAYWARD PL. – DESIGNATED

MOTION WAS MADE BY **PALMER** AND SECONDED BY **THOMPSON** TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION WITH CONDITION OF 22FT. OF AVAILABLE PARKING IN FRONT OF THE APPLICANT PROPERTY.

ROLL CALL: AYE: BARNAS, PINTO, THOMPSON, PALMER, TOMKO, CHIRLO

ADJOURNMENT:

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD, **PALMER** MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:18 P.M. SECONDED BY **THOMPSON**.

ROLL CALL: AYE: UNANIMOUS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marta Goldyn

BOARD OF HEALTH SECRETARY