

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH MARCH 18, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Bloomfield Board of Health, as established by public record in *The Independent Press* and posted on the Public Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building, was called to order on March 18, 2021 at 6:34 p.m. via video conference.

### **ROLL CALL**

Director Lore showed the following members to be present:

Joel Elkins, President	Present (video conference)
Dr. Ruchi Mehta, Vice President	Present (video conference)
Antonia Rodriguez, Member	Present (video conference)
Denise Serbay, Member	Absent
Sarah Bonilla, Member	Absent
Council Liaison, Wartyna Davis	Absent

Also present: Karen Lore, Director of Health & Welfare (video conference), and Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer (video conference).

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, reviewed the February 18, 2021 *Regular Meeting* minutes.

After review, the Board unanimously approved the meeting minutes as submitted.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **LICENSES PENDING APPROVAL – FEBRUARY 2021**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously approved the following licenses for the month of February:

Trade Name	License Class	Application Fee
MARSHALLS	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
99 CENT DREAM	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
LIQUOR LOCKER	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
WALGREENS #19964	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
WALGREENS #1881	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
DON PONZONI	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
MR. EXQUISITO RESTAURANT	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00

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PUPUSAS TO GO	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
ALDI #70	Supermarket	\$300.00
APEM CREAMERY	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
DOLLAR TREE #08066	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
CROWN FRIED CHICKEN	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
FRIENDLY'S #237	2 Restaurant	\$250.00
Dollar Junction	Deli/Café/Market	\$100.00
AKI JAPANESE RESTAURANT	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
F & B Caterers	Deli/Café/Market-With Seating	\$100.00
ANGELO'S	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
STATE STREET GRILL	4 Restaurant	\$400.00
WASI FOOD	1 Restaurant G	\$100.00
VINNIE'S PIZZERIA AND RESTAURANT	2 Restaurant	\$250.00
GC HAIR SALON	BEAUTY/BAR5-10	\$100.00
BOMBCELE LLC	BEAUTY/BAR 1-4	\$75.00
VIVIAN NAIL & SPA INC	BEAUTY/BAR5-10	\$100.00
MY 1ST TIME CHILD CARE CENTER	CHILD CARE FAC	\$30.00
HEALTH SPA, LLC	BEAUTY/BAR5-10	\$100.00
XEN NAILS	BEAUTY/BAR 1-4	\$75.00
BROOKDALE PET CENTER	PET SHOP	\$50.00
NEW ERA BARBER SHOP	BEAUTY/BAR 1-4	\$75.00
SUGEY'S PLACE	BEAUTY/BAR5-10	\$100.00
Zeas Nail Salon LLC	BEAUTY/BARB11+	\$150.00
KIDDIE WORLD	CHILD CARE FAC	\$30.00
KIDDIE WORLD NURSERY	CHILD CARE FAC	\$30.00
A'GINELL SALON	BEAUTY/BAR5-10	\$100.00
TATTOO GARAGE	TATTOO&BODY PI	\$200.00
Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages LLC	VENDING MACHI	\$250.00
EXECUTIVE BABY	CHILD CARE FAC	\$30.00

**REVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY 2021 COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, reviewed and unanimously voted to accept the February 2021 communications.

**FEBRUARY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to accept the February 2021 Financial Reports.

**DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORT**

The Director provided the following report to the Board:

- Director Lore informed the Board that the Vulnerable Population Grant Coordinator position has been filled. The grant requires that a rapid assessment be completed by April 15th. Interviews will be done with key informants as part of the assessment. Additionally, a Committee will be formed to develop outreach strategies. The grant ends in June of this year however, it is anticipated that it will be offered again.
- VP Mehta will be a key speaker at the BMAC program and will be speaking to the Bloomfield athletic town hall event on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm virtually (sponsored by ADAPT and Essex County Prosecutors Office) and will be speaking on opioid use amongst high school athletes.
- The Director informed the Board that on May 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a Healthy Community Grant Bike/Walk event. This year's event will not only have secure bike rides with routes throughout town, but will now incorporate a walking aspect with similar routes. This program is in coordination with the Recreation & Police Departments and Bloomfield Center Alliance.
- She also stated that surveys conducted as part of the annual community health assessment have been tabulated. These surveys are conducted annually to measure short term progress towards goals identified in 5 year plan. A formal presentation to the Board on the findings of survey will be presented in April or May.
- Open enrollment on March 22<sup>nd</sup> for the COVID emergency rental assistance program. Information can be found online or by calling the Human Services Division.
- Lastly, she informed the Board that April 5-11 is Public Health Awareness Month. The Department is currently working to inform residents on public health issues. Topics would include advancing racial equity, COVID19 response & resilience and mental health & wellness.
- Bloomfield School system will open to in-person learning in April and the HO is working with school officials on their plan.

### **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Michael Fitzpatrick, Health Officer, reported on the following:

- Active Covid cases in Bloomfield- January 370 active cases, February 261 and March 258. Cases remain high may be due to the different variants and opening up of businesses, travel, team sports.
- Effective yesterday, the Health department has received small supply of J&J vaccine to vaccinate homebound individuals. Additionally, the County is working with Human Services staff in identifying residents 60+ who need transportation to vaccine site. Over 100 residents have been registered and transported to receive vaccine. Currently, 15 slots per day are available.
- Contact tracing continues as well as giving guidance on township employees and return to work protocols.

### **COUNCIL LIAISON'S REPORT**

No report.

**BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

***“Resolution #17-2021 – ESTABLISHING STANDARD PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DURING REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH”***  
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The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, opened discussion on this matter.

After discussion, the Board unanimously voted on the following Resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N – ESTABLISHING STANDARD PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DURING REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, in light of the dangers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 103 on March 9, 2020, which declared both a Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency that continues to exist and the facts and circumstances which have been renewed through subsequent Executive Orders; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.3 permits local public body to hold a remote meeting if a declared emergency prevents that body from conducting public business at a meeting where the public can physically attend or the declared emergency necessitates capacity restrictions reducing the number of individuals that can be present in the meeting room an amount below that reasonably expected for the public meeting by the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, the local public body shall adopt, by resolution, standard procedures and requirements for public comment made during a remote public meeting, as well as for public comments submitted in writing ahead of the remote public meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Bloomfield Board of Health will livestream its remote meetings live on Channel 35, (Comcast), Channel 30 (Verizon), YouTube or Facebook Live starting at 6:30pm on the dates of the respective meeting. A link for the livestream will be posted on the township website, [www.bloomfieldwpnj.com](http://www.bloomfieldwpnj.com) ; and

**WHEREAS**, public comments may be submitted in writing by electronic mail to the Bloomfield Health Department at [health@bloomfieldwpnj.com](mailto:health@bloomfieldwpnj.com). The President of the Board or his/her designated representative will read, on the record, the submitted question or comment during the public comment portion of the meeting. Comments to be made on Ordinances listed for Second Reading on the agenda may also be submitted in the same manner. An individual wishing to submit public comment by electronic mail should submit his or her name, address and the question or comment. Submissions will be accepted until 4:30pm on the date of the respective meeting, and there will be a two (2) minute limit on written submissions read during the meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals may make public comment during the meeting by telephone. Individuals wishing to make public comment during the meeting may dial 425-436-6348 and use Access Code: 277839#. When called upon, the individual shall state his or her name, address and then make a comment. Individuals will have five (5) minutes total to speak; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals shall be limited to one public comment per meeting, whether it be written or spoken comment, but this limitation shall not prohibit an individual from commenting both during the Public Comment portion of the agenda and during a Public Hearing on an Ordinance. Individuals submitting their comment in writing for the Public Comment portion of the agenda may not make an additional public comment during the meeting by telephone, and vice-versa; and

**WHEREAS**, if a member of the public becomes disruptive during a remote public meeting, including during any period of public comment, the member of the local public body charged with running the remote public meeting shall mute or continue muting the disruptive member of the public and warn that continued disruption may result in their being prevented from speaking

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during the remote public meeting or removed from the remote public meeting. Disruptive conduct includes sustained inappropriate behaviors, such as, but not necessarily limited to, shouting, interruption, and use of profanity; and

**WHEREAS**, a member of the public who continues to act in a disruptive manner after receiving an initial warning may be muted while other members of the public are allowed to proceed with their comments. If time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public have been given the opportunity to make their comments. Should the person remain disruptive, the individual may be muted or kept on mute for the remainder of the remote public meeting or removed from the remote public meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Health agenda, as well as supporting resolutions and ordinances, will be posted in advance of the meeting on the Township website, [www.bloomfieldwpnj.com](http://www.bloomfieldwpnj.com).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield that the Board hereby accepts the aforementioned personnel changes recommended by the Director of Health and Human Services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Health hereby authorizes the Director to take any action necessary to properly effectuate changes above in compliance with the New Jersey Department of Personnel.

***“Resolution #18-2021 – Ratifying Resignation, Retirement, Separation, or Termination – Board of Health Employee(s)”***

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, opened discussion on this matter.

After discussion, the Board unanimously voted on the following Resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N – RATIFYING RESIGNATION, RETIREMENT, SEPARATION, OR TERMINATION OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEE/BOARD AND COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the following employee has retired, resigned or is no longer working for the Bloomfield Board of Health:

Name	Title	Effective
Allison Sherwood	Graduate Nurse (Lead Grant)	November 12, 2020
Joseph Carell	Custodial Worker	June 30, 2020
Tiara Williamson	REHS	January 30, 2020
Pamela Rosario	REHS	January 30, 2020

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned employees have notified the Director of Health & Welfare that it is their desire to resign, retire or separate from their positions with the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield that the Board hereby accepts the above notices.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board hereby instructs the Director of Health & Welfare to complete all necessary paperwork and take other actions as necessary to properly effectuate said notices.

***“Resolution #19-2021 – Ratifying Title Change, Modification of Hours Worked or New Hire Board of Health Employee”***

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, opened discussion on this matter.

After discussion, the Board unanimously voted on the following Resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N – RATIFYING TITLE CHANGE, MODIFICATION OF HOURS WORKED or NEW HIRE BOARD OF HEALTH EMPLOYEE**

**WHEREAS**, in order to meet the obligations required by the Board of Health to carry out their current responsibilities for the Township and contracting communities, the following personal changes are recommended; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Board of Health, by New Jersey State Statute, N.J.S.A. 26:3-19 may employ such personnel as it may deem necessary in order to maintain efficiency and productivity and fix the duties and compensation of its appointees; and

**WHEREAS**, the following employee(s) have demonstrated the efficiency, competency, license, and/or skills required to perform these duties:

NAME	TITLE	STEP	EFFECTIVE	EMPLOYMENT DESIGNATION
Katherine A. Mauro	Health Educator	Step 2	March 8, 2021	FT temporary grant hire – not to exceed terms of grant
Horace H. Henry	REHS	Step 2	March 29, 2021	FT provisional temporary hire

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield that the Board hereby accepts the aforementioned personnel changes recommended by the Director of Health and Human Services.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Health hereby authorizes the Director to take any action necessary to properly effectuate changes above in compliance with the New Jersey Department of Personnel.

**“Resolution #20-2021 – Geese Chasers of North Jersey – Spring Egg Addling Services”**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, opened discussion on this matter.

After discussion, the Board unanimously voted on the following Resolution:

\_\_\_\_\_Acceptance of the Geese Chasers North Jersey contract to provide egg addling services for the calendar period of April 1, 2021 through June 16, 2021 not to exceed \$7,315 (2 payments of \$3,657.50) for the Spring. \_\_\_\_\_

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

BOARD MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
JOEL ELKINS, PRESIDENT				
DR. RUCHI MEHTA, VICE-PRESIDENT				
ANTONIA RODRIGUEZ, MEMBER				
DENISE SERBAY, MEMBER				
SARAH BONILLA, MEMBER				

**“Resolution #21-2021 – Rescind Public Housing Authority Stipend Lore”**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, opened discussion on this matter.

After discussion, the Board unanimously voted on the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION – PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD HOUSING AGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Housing Authority and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all Public Housing Agencies appoint a Public Housing Agency Executive Director and;  
**WHEREAS**, the Township of Bloomfield has placed the operation of the Bloomfield Housing Agency (PHA) under the Board of Health effective February 14, 2017 and,  
**WHEREAS**, Karen Lore, Director of Health and Welfare has been performing duties as the PHA Executive Director in compliance with all HUD requirements and,

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**WHEREAS**, by the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that Karen Lore, Director of Health and Human Services is designated and was appointed as the Township of Bloomfield Public Housing Agency (PHA) Executive Director effective February 14, 2017 and,

**WHEREAS**, this no longer meets the Board's requirements as a temporary assignment and shall be incorporated into the title of Director of Health and Welfare in compliance with all HUD requirements at no additional cost to the Board.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the PHA Director's stipend for assigned duties shall be incorporated into the permanent title of Director of Health and Welfare and shall be subjected to all payroll deductions required under the law for said title effective April 1, 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED**, that resolution 29-2017 be rescinded once the above action has been effectuated.

**" Resolution #22-2021 – Rescind Public Housing Authority Stipend\_Peikes "**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, opened discussion on this matter.

After discussion, the Board unanimously voted on the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION – PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY SUPERVISOR FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD HOUSING AGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Housing Authority and Urban Development (HUD) requires that all Public Housing Agencies oversee activities of Public Housing Agency and;

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Bloomfield has placed the operation of the Bloomfield Housing Agency (PHA) under the Board of Health effective February 14, 2017 and,

**WHEREAS**, Paula Peikes, Social Work Supervisor has been performing duties as the PHA Supervisor in compliance with all HUD requirements and,

**WHEREAS**, by the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, State of New Jersey that Paula Peikes has been designated as the supervisor for the Section 8 program, effective February 14, 2017 and,

**WHEREAS**, this no longer meets the Board's requirements as a temporary assignment and shall be incorporated into the title of Social Work Supervisor in compliance with all HUD requirements at no additional cost to the Board.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the PHA Director's stipend for assigned duties shall be incorporated into the permanent title of Social Work Supervisor and shall be subjected to all payroll deductions required under the law for said title effective April 1, 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED**, that resolution 28-2017 be rescinded once the above action has been effectuated.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The current Closed Session item will be deferred.

The Board, seeing no matters to be discussed in closed session, continued its regular meeting.

**APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board, on a motion by BM Rodriguez, seconded by VP Mehta, unanimously voted to adjourn the March 18, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Health of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, State of New Jersey at 7:09 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Karen Lore, Director of Health and Welfare  
Secretary to the Board