

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
7:30 PM ZOOM
March 28, 2023 – Regular Meeting**

Statement of Compliance

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Board of Health was opened on March 28, 2023 at 7:30 PM by Chair Carluccio. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by a notice sent to the official newspapers of the Township, posted on the Township website, posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal building and filed with the Township Clerk as required by law, on February 1, 2023.

Roll Call

Committee Member (term expires)	1/24/2023	2/28/2023	3/28/2023	4/25/2023	5/23/2023	6/27/2023	7/25/2023	8/22/2023	9/26/2023	10/24/2023	11/28/2023	12/26/2023
Tracy Carluccio (12/2024) - Chair	X	A	X									
Leo DeCandia (12/2023) - Alternate #1	X	X	X									
Michael Dendis (12/2023) – TC Liaison	X	X	X									
Janis Grover (12/2024)	X	A	A									
Pauline Serafin (12/2023)	X	A	A									
Chris Sobieski (12/2023)	A	A	X									
Larry Tatsch (12/2024) – Vice Chair	X	X	X									
Rick Wolfe (12/2025)	X	X	X									
Amy Jo Merz - Secretary	X	X	X									

Agenda Review

There were no additions to the agenda.

Presentation of Minutes

November 22, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Sobieski to approve the November 2022 minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote.

January 24, 2023 Reorganization Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to approve the January minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote, with Mr. Sobieski abstaining.

February 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to approve the February minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote, with Mr. Sobieski, Mr. Dendis and Chair Carluccio abstaining.

Presentation of Vouchers

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Sobieski to approve the vouchers was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Open to the Public

Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

New Business

There was no new business for discussion.

Items of Discussion

Education and Health Issues

Chair Carluccio opened up this section to members for comment. Mr. Tatsch commented on the receipt of another bite report and always wondered if the animal listed in these reports is vaccinated for rabies because most of the time that section is not filled in. Ms. Merz stated that she provides a copy of the bite report to Pam Dymek, Deputy Clerk, and Pam will check, if it is a dog that is identified, whether the dog is properly vaccinated or not since she handles dog licensing. Chair Carluccio also mentioned that in the next month or two, the insert that is mailed out with the annual tax bills will be due to Pam Dymek, Deputy Clerk, containing information that each Board or Committee would like to include with the July tax bill mailing. Chair Carluccio asked the Education Committee members to start thinking about the topic they want to cover for the Board of Health to be included in the mailing.

Board Secretary's Report

Ms. Merz reported that she will be sending documents to the Preview Committee after tonight's meeting for a septic application that was recently received, which will be added to the agenda for next month's meeting.

Open to the Public

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote. Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Sobieski to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Correspondence

Chair Carluccio reviewed the correspondence received with the Board and stated there was quite a bit of correspondence received this month from the NJ Department of Health. Chair Carluccio pointed out we are trending in the right direction in terms of Covid-19. At the beginning of the month for community levels, there were 9 counties that were at the medium level, Hunterdon was not one of them, but at the end of the month, there were only 2 counties at the medium level, so levels are down in most counties. The reports do also note that the concern is about certain types of Covid that don't move the whole statistic up, such as pediatric Covid, which is being tracked closely because of the concern of having substantial effects on children. Another statistic is regarding community transmission levels. Hunterdon and most counties have been at medium levels but is trending toward low levels and has gone down in some counties. It can't be said that we have beaten Covid completely but hopefully meetings can go back to in-person and the Board will be watching the trend carefully to see if the trend line goes down. Mr. Dendis commented that Hunterdon Medical Center waived the mandatory mask requirement for staff as of today so things are moving forward there. Mr. Tatsch also commented that there are two sets of statistics; one shows the number of cases based on testing but the problem is that there are so many people who are not reporting their cases possibly because they are not very severe so they don't report it. The other statistic, which Chair Carluccio mentioned, shows actual confirmed cases vs. prior confirmed cases which are confirmed due to hospital visits and that is a better handle on what the actual rate is. But if you look at just the reported cases, that rate is down to about 6 per 100,000 which is very low but it doesn't capture all the cases that are occurring. Chair Carluccio added that she knew someone who had Covid and called NJDOH to report it and was told if the test wasn't done in a doctor's office, DOH was not counting the results from an at-home test. Chair Carluccio stated the Board will watch the reports closely and, for now, the trendlines seem to be moving downward and hopefully there won't be any new variants to emerge.

Adjourn

A motion made by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Wolfe to adjourn the meeting at 7:46pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

Amy Jo Merz, Board of Health Secretary