

**EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
7:30 PM ZOOM
May 23, 2023 – Regular Meeting**

Statement of Compliance

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Board of Health was opened on May 23, 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	X	X							
Leo DeCandia (12/2023) - Alternate #1	X	X	X	X	X							
Michael Dendis (12/2023) – TC Liaison	X	X	X	A	X							
Janis Grover (12/2024)	X	A	A	A	A							
Juliet Leonard (12/2024) – Alternate #2					X							
Pauline Serafin (12/2023)	X	A	A	A	X							
Chris Sobieski (12/2023)	A	A	X	A	A							
Larry Tatsch (12/2024) – Vice Chair	X	X	X	X	X							
Rick Wolfe (12/2025)	X	X	X	X	X							
Amy Jo Merz - Secretary	X	X	X	X	X							

Agenda Review

There were no additions to the agenda.

Presentation of Minutes

April 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Wolfe to approve the April minutes was approved by voice vote, with Ms. Serafin and Ms. Leonard both abstaining.

Presentation of Vouchers

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Dendis 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 confirmed with Ms. Merz that she received the information for the tax mailing that Chair Carluccio and Mr. Tatsch put together and sent to her. This information included new material about wells and also links to the County's website with good data about contaminated fill dirt and rabies. Ms. Merz said she would put the information into a document for Chair Carluccio and Mr. Tatsch to review prior to sending it to Pam Dymek to be included with the tax bill mailing.

Board Secretary's Report

There were no new updates from Ms. Merz, just a note to say she has received a septic application, and possibly more, that will be added to the agenda for June's meeting. Ms. Merz will send the information she has for the one application to the preview committee in the next few days.

Open to the Public

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

Correspondence

Chair Carluccio reviewed the correspondence received with the Board. Chair Carluccio stated that the report on admission to hospitals shows that the entire state is in the low range for admittance due to Covid-19 and on May 11, 2023, the pandemic emergency was officially ended by the federal government. However, it is required that healthcare professionals and hospitals continue to report to the State and CDC in order to track any outbreak or changes in the admission to hospitals or incidences of transmission of the disease. Ms. Leonard stated that, clinically, she has seen a decrease in the number of people that are seriously ill, based on the number of patients seen at the clinic, so that is good news.

Mr. Tatsch stated that there is another well application in the works for 127 Linvale Road which he believes is in the Mountain district and will require a 3-part pump test if it is indeed in that district. Ms. Merz said she would double check the tax map to see which district it is in and get back to Mr. Tatsch.

Chair Carluccio also mentioned two pieces of correspondence that she sent out over the last month. The first email was a follow-up report sent to Hunterdon County related to lengthy, back-and-forth discussions with the West Amwell construction official regarding property at 13 Ridge Road. In summary, the house burned down and the owner was still living in a shed that was not at the property when the house burned down. There was a dispute with the West Amwell construction official who was not sure what was actually on the property. It was determined that the person was set-up as a residence in that shed with plumbing, including a full bathroom. The Board asked that this situation be followed-up by the County, who inspected the site but did not see any evidence of runoff to the ground from not being connected or a new connection to the existing septic system that went with the old house that burned down. No action was taken by the County and the Board was told to follow up with the West Amwell construction official. After following up with the construction official and a lot of back-and-forth conversations and visits to the property by the construction official, the official instructed the property owner, who was using the shed, to remove all of the plumbing and put cement into all of the outlets being used for the plumbing in the shed so it can no longer be used as a residence. There is nothing more that the Board of Health can do regarding how the shed will be used going forward. However, the shed does not meet building code requirements so the construction official will be following up about how the shed will be used. The official told the owner if they wanted to have a bathroom in the shed and use it as a residence, they need to file with the County to get an approval. This is the first step to obtaining a construction permit to make sure what is being built is suited for the size of the septic system on the property or that a new septic system would need to be put in. If the owner does want to convert the shed to a building that is a residence, they will have to go through the West Amwell Township construction official, which is also the East Amwell construction official, since East Amwell has a shared service with West Amwell. The Board's part is done but Chair Carluccio worked with the Township Committee liaison to the construction official, Deputy Mayor Dante DiPirro, and he will be following up since this issue is now in the jurisdiction of the construction official.

The second is an email sent to Mr. Willey, Planning Board Chairperson, to ask for the UAW Housing information. During their preliminary site plan, they had waived the requirement for doing any kind well testing there; however, Chapter 176 of the Board of Health will need to be enforced. Chair Carluccio wanted to bring to the Planning Board's attention that the Board of Health would like to have the project referred to it as soon as possible and also for the Planning Board to share with us anything that has been submitted to NJDOH so the Board is aware of what the sewage plans are. Even though the sewage plans exceed 2,000 gallons/day, which requires a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit from the State, which is not in our jurisdiction, the State does refer back to the Township's Board of Health to ask if the project meets all local ordinance requirements. As far as the well test is concerned, it would be good to get that started now so there isn't a rush to get it done and any concerns about water supply would be good to know sooner than later. Chair Carluccio and Mr. Tatsch will respond once they get the requested information. The Board would also need to utilize its hydrogeologist consultant, Vince Uhl of Uhl & Associates, to get professional input on how to design the test since the well would be required to meet a yield that is greater than what a house would require. Chair Carluccio will share any information once it is received.

Adjourn

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Tatsch to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Amy Jo Merz, Board of Health Secretary