



KENILWORTH BOARD OF HEALTH

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Minutes of April 23, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 4:24 p.m.

President Randy Moscaritolo announced that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The Sunshine law was read.

On roll call the following members responded as follows:

Randy Moscaritolo	PRESENT
Carla Gabriel	ABSENT
Dr. Jerome Forman	PRESENT
Scott Klinder	PRESENT
Jeanine Pentz	PRESENT
Nancy Lamoreaux	PRESENT
Krystyna Maslenko	ABSENT

REHS Michael Balka was present. Health Officer Marconi Gapas was present, and Council Liaison Gerry Laudati was present.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lamoreaux to accept the previous minutes and seconded by Vice President Pentz. All in Favor.

President Moscaritolo called for a motion to accept the reports. Vice President Pentz made a motion to accept the reports. Commissioner Lamoreaux seconded that motion. All in favor.

The Monthly income and expenses for February 2020

March 2020 Income:	\$ 4,188.50
March 2020 Expenses:	\$ 190.93

President Moscaritolo called for a motion to approve the monthly bills.

A motion was made by Vice President Pentz and seconded by Commissioner Lamoureux, to pay the bills. Upon roll call, all in favor.

Correspondence: None

New Business: None

Old Business:

Developments of the Covid-19 virus were discussed. REHS Balka stated, at the time of the meeting, there were 116 cases in the Borough. He conducted 91 investigations throughout the month. There are 20 households with more than one person who had the virus. He stated that within that number, there were 14 couples and 6 trios, which gave the Borough about 46 cases. He said the intern had come in for a preliminary introduction to the CDRSS. After that, she came in for one day and did a total of two investigations. He said she did say she would be in this upcoming Friday. He continued, there were six deaths of people who tested positive. He said he did not see anything on their death certificates that attributed their deaths to Covid-19 complications. Health Officer Gapas said the State finally clarified what was to be put on the death certificates. He said certificates had Covid-19 as primary cause, which the State did not want. Prior to that there were mixed death certificates with some stating primary cause Covid-19, and others as a secondary or probable cause. When this was corrected there was a rise in the number of deaths. He said the majority of cases in Union Township were people who were in or above their fifties and had some sort of underlying disease, such as chronic cardiovascular disease, diabetes, myelitis, chronic lung, renal disability or cancer. He continued, more recently in today's press conference, the Commissioner of Health identified spikes in people that had hypertension and again, diabetes and overweight people. Vice President Pentz stated that in the hospital they were also seeing higher numbers in Black and Hispanic people. Health Officer Gapas agreed with this. Health Officer Gapas stated that Union County, to date, has 10,935 positive cases and 515 deaths. He continued, on a positive side, during the press conference it was said, that the number of new admits has plateaued, been consistent and been kind of flat. He asked Vice President Pentz to confirm if this is true that ICU numbers have been bouncing up and down. Vice President Pentz agreed and added that the patients in the ICU are ones that have had it for a while and are extremely sick. Health Officer Gapas stated that is how the State determines when they are going to hit the peak which was last estimated as the 25th of April. He said they base that number off hospitalizations and activity in the ICU.

Dr. Forman stated that social distancing is definitely working. He said his son works at Columbia Presbyterian and all operating rooms are Covid-19 patients on ventilators; he maintains the patients on ventilators, when they code he keeps them alive. He said they are happy if they can get 30 percent of the patients off ventilators. Vice President Pentz stated they are making ICUs everywhere. Dr. Forman said at Columbia there are 5 different testing's going on but have nothing definite right now. He said patients that

were getting azithromycin with (unintelligible), their hearts blew up. He reiterated social distancing is all that works right now.

Council Liaison Laudati told the Board that he has been getting calls from residents asking where hot spots are, where should they avoid when walking, should they skip a certain neighborhood? Vice President Pentz told him it is not out in the outside air, that UV light kills the virus. Dr. Forman stated it has nothing to do with who has it. The key is social distancing and avoiding crowded supermarkets, any crowded places. There are no hot spots in Kenilworth. Hot spots are when you have a lot of people living together. Vice President Pentz stated that is why nursing homes are so bad, they have their own bedrooms but bring people together in the day room and dining rooms. Health Officer Gapas stated there is a lot of focus from the state to get nursing homes on board. It is mandatory that they report their facility daily. Vice President Pentz stated patients are not negative when released from hospital, they are just well enough to isolate on their own. Dr. Forman stated you must have antibody testing and even if you have had the virus there is no guarantee that you will not get it again. He said all you can do is keep social distancing, walk 30 minutes a day and wash your hands.

Commissioner Reports: None

Council Liaison reports:

The Council Liaison reported the following:

The school board budget is being voted on April 26. There are discussions going on as to whether or not to reopen the schools.

Tax bills will be sent out on May 1. If payments are late there is no interest on the late fee.

The library is still closed but you can get virtual books by going to www.kenilworthlibrary.org.

Meals on wheel are still being delivered.

Paratransit is on working for life sustaining transportation only.

Homeless people can dial 211 for social services.

Council Liaison Laudati questioned about the review of the permanent cosmetics business. He wanted to know if they needed permits to build the building. He said he spoke to the Planning Board and the Zoning Officer and they said they have nothing on it. Health Officer Gapas explained that it is not a new building, the business is going into a free-standing building, a separate shop, which already exists. REHS Balka said that the information should have been passed to the Zoning Officer. Council Liaison Laudati explained the Zoning Officer does not attend Council meetings.

The Blackthorn property has been sold to a crane company.

He said the school had no numbers as to if any children have contracted the virus. REHS Balks stated there were two people between the ages of 12 and 13 that have had it. The next age group would be in their 20's. He said the core group of people who have tested positive are in their 30s, then some 40s, 50s then 80s. Council Liaison Laudati said he has no numbers to report to Council. It was decided that REHS Balka would update Council Liaison Laudati on the ages that have reported positive for the Covid-19 once a week. It will be broken down by age range.

A motion made by Commissioner Lamoreaux and seconded by Vice President Pentz to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:58 p.m.

The next scheduled Board Meeting will be held on May 21, 2020 at Borough Hall.

Randy M. Moscaritolo
President Board of Health

Marconi Gapas
Health Officer

Submitted by Karen Kizelevich, Board Secretary

