

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
July 23, 2020  
5:00pm**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Residents wishing to make public comments may dial 929-205-6099** (Meeting ID: 843-3386-0081) or obtain online access of the meeting using the following URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89607178495>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +19292056099, ,89607178495# or +13017158592, ,89607178495#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 896 0717 8495

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89607178495>

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**STATEMENT REGARDING ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING:**

In compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., adequate notice of this special meeting has been provided by publishing a copy of the meeting notice in the Chatham Courier, the Daily Record, and the Alternative Press on July 16, 2020, a copy of which was posted on the official bulletin board on the main floor of Borough Hall and on the entrance door to Borough Hall, and was filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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**ROLL CALL:**

Lisa DeRosa, R.N.

Kay Kaiser, R.N.

Micki Chaput, R.N.

Lisbeth Bringgaard, R.N. *ABSENT*

Andrew Zoltan

Lara Freidenfelds

Shelliam Lee, 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate

Bridget Colendenski, R.N., Public Health Nurse

Megan Avallone, Health Officer, Westfield Regional Department of Health

Beau Preston, R.E.H.S., Westfield Regional Department of Health

Council Member Robert Weber, Sr.

Lucille Plantemoli, President of Chatham Twp. BOH was in attendance.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:** *NONE*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT TIME LIMIT:**

Hearing of citizens during the Public Comment section of the Agenda is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues which are/are not topics scheduled for Public Hearing tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to a reasonable length of time.

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**SPECIAL MEETING DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**

Health Officer Megan Avallone led the discussion on the following items:

- Three additional cases have been confirmed in Chatham Borough; they have not been responsive regarding additional questions regarding exposure. All three cases have been in young adults who have been afraid to ‘get in trouble’ by completing an interview for contact tracing.
- Mrs. Avallone has been working hard on the reopening of schools, including testifying before the Assembly Education Committee looking for guidance and consistency to ensure safety. She has been working with the Health Officer in the Township as well as with Dr. La Sousa the Chatham School’s Superintendent on a plan for September reopening.
- The Health Department has also been taxed with calling residents that have traveled to State’s on the quarantine list after they have returned home.
- Lara Freidenfelds asked about the confidential component of the department’s contact tracers and what type of information they receive.
- Kay Kaiser asked about the burden on the health department; Megan stated that it is taxing because it is a lot of work for a voluntary quarantine.
- The Governor has discussed the hiring of contact tracers; although it is several months in, they have yet to see one be added to help the workload. The Westfield Health Department had to hire their own employees just to complete the process.
- Board President DeRosa requested strategic communication coming from the Board through the Community. She introduced Lucille Plantemoli, President of Chatham Twp. BOH in attendance.
- Enforcement of mask wearing and distancing in restaurants was discussed; it’s up to the establishment to ensure requirements are adhered to.
- Mrs. Avallone reviewed local urgent care facilities for testing as the Morris County facility has now closed. She stated that most young adults continue to present with milder symptoms.
- Borough Administrator Steve Williams added the problem is transmission to other family members; Mrs. Avallone expanded on her previous comment saying their symptoms also can be masked by seasonal allergies, and mild enough to be overlooked.
- Lisa DeRosa said she and Megan had discussed having a Facebook Live event regarding the schools and parents could send in questions as a reminder to get additional information to the public.

- Lara added the notion of “parent shaming” regarding parents and the stigma of COVID. Mrs. Kaiser confirmed, but said there is a way to correct behavior without the negative connotation, maybe who delivers the message would help.
- Lucille Plantemoli asked if perhaps there is a task force through the schools with Dr. La Sousa.
- Lisa DeRosa added that she knew that PPE for nurses in the schools is an issue of concern; Megan confirmed that at five weeks out they are still waiting for State guidance.
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**OLD BUSINESS:**

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**ADJOURNMENT:**