

**BOROUGH OF MADISON BOARD OF HEALTH  
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 9, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A Meeting of the Board of Health of the Borough of Madison was held on the 9th day of January 2024. Board President, Dr. Joseph Balwierzczak, called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Because of a weather emergency, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Hosting the meeting was borough communications coordinator Michael Pellessier.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:**

Dr. Balwierzczak read the statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

**ROLL CALL:**

Attendance was recorded in person:

Board Member:	Present	Absent
Dr. Joseph Balwierzczak	X	
Mr. John Hoover	X	
Mr. Mitchell Horn	X	
Mr. Kevin McCarthy	X	
Ms. Kathy McGrath	X	
Ms. Patrice Paoella	X	
Ms. Cassandra Sledge	X	
Mr. John Forte		X

Also Present:

Ms. Megan Avallone, Madison Health Officer  
Ms. Giselle Alfaro, Madison Health Inspector  
Ms. Nicole Rondon, Assistant Health Officer  
Mr. Peter King, Board Attorney  
Ms. Janet Wagstaff, Secretary

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

The following members performed the Oath of Office:

- Joseph Balwierzczak, Regular Board Member (December 31, 2027)
- Kathy McGrath, Regular Board Member (December 31, 2027)
- John Hoover, Alternate #2 Board Member (December 31, 2025)
- Patrice Paoella, Alternate #1 Board Member (December 31, 2024)

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

A motion to elect Joseph Balwierzczak as Board of Health President was duly moved and approved. A motion to elect Ms. Cassandra Sledge as Board of Health Vice-President was duly moved and approved.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE REORGANIZATION MEETING**

The board approved the adjournment of the reorganization meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Health of the Borough of Madison was called to order at 7:59 pm.

**PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for December 4, 2023 were duly moved and approved.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

A motion to approve the below listed resolutions on one (1) vote as a consent was duly moved and approved.

- BH 2024-1 Designating Meeting Dates and the Official Newspaper
- BH 2024-2 Appointing Health Officer
- BH 2024-3 Authorizing the Award of Contract for Professional Services – Board Attorney
- BH 2024-4 Appointing Janet Wagstaff as the Registrar
- BH 2024-5 Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Town of Westfield

Regarding Resolution BH 2024-1, Ms. Cassandra Sledge remarked that if additional meetings be deemed necessary adequate notice of the meeting dates will be made available.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:**

Health Officer Megan Avallone advised there will be two (2) free Pediatric COVID vaccination clinics (Thursday 1/11/2024 and Friday 1/12/2024) in their Westfield Office. They will be looking to schedule COVID vaccination clinics for adults and children at locations in Madison.

Ms. Avallone also advised that flu cases will peak in the next two (2) to three (3) weeks, the current flu strain is H1N1. COVID is also on the rise and our current level of COVID activity is moderate. This week the Health Department will be distributing free OTC COVID test kits to the Library, Pine Acres Nursing Home, and the YMCA. There will also be test kits available at the Madison Health Department. The public will be made aware of the free test kit locations through flyers. The Health Department will continue to send out infographics regarding COVID and general health topics to the community. Health Officer Megan recommends an annual COVID vaccine for all residents over the age of six (6) months.

**GRANT FUNDING (ELPHI)**

The board discussed with Ms. Avallone, the best way to utilize the remaining ELPHI grant money (\$36,826). Ms. Avallone advised that the best use of the money would be for the purchase of new equipment for the Madison Health Department, since the Grant Program Manager has very specific stipulations for the transfer of the funds.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:** The kick-off meeting for the Community Health Assessment Survey is January 24th from 12:00 pm. To 4:00 pm. at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy. Dr. Joseph Balwierczak asked how the Madison community will be made aware of Morris Regional Public Health Partnership Community Health Assessment survey. He posed information could be posted at the YMCA, the library, the schools, and possibly the local pharmacies. More information regarding the CHA will be available at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The public comment period was opened at 8:28 pm. Mr. Thomas Haralampoudis raised the issue of vaping in the schools. The Board advised that the Madison School District does not have a vaping protocol at this time, and that the district is very concerned about student confidentiality. It was recommended for the Board to wait until a new Superintendent is in place, before raising the issue with the Board of Education.

Mr. Haralampoudis also suggested that to increase the response for the Community Health Assessment, the Borough could hire interns to go around and do the assessments in the community.

With no other members of the public wishing to be heard, Dr. Joseph Balwierczak closed the public comment period at 8:38 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion at 8:42 pm to adjourn the meeting was duly moved and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wagstaff