***BLOOMINGDALE BOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH***

***SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – March 12, 2024***

1. **Call to Order**

Mary Catalano, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:35p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

Present: M. Catalano, Pilaar, Fallon, Meyers, Reynolds

Alternate: A. Catalano

Also present: Dawn Hudson-Council Liaison, Mayor John D’Amato, Michael Sondermeyer, BA, and Lisa Perry, Animal Control

Absent: Iglesia, Ellis

There is 1 vacant alternate position.

Due to this being a special meeting with Passaic County Health Department to discuss their shared services, a motion was made to forego regular business by Shelby Meyers and seconded by Anthony Catalano.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

1. **Acceptance of Reports**
2. **Unfinished Business**
3. **Presentation to the Board**

The Bloomingdale Board of Health was joined by members of the Passaic County Department of Health Services (PCDHS) to present the shared services they offer for our consideration. Dr. Charlene Gungil, Director and Health Officer lead the presentation with introductions of 4 staff members of the PCDHS. Information was presented on a slide show as well as a handout.

Key points:

* Staff of 56 employees that includes 9 full time REHS, 5 Nurses, 5 Health Educators, 3 Pediatricians, 2 Epidemiologists.
* A comparison analysis was presented for both cost and services for our current shared service and with PCDHS. Projected savings over 10 years with PCDHS is 366,316.34.
* With our current services we have a 90 day opt out period with no penalty. In the event that we switch services, this can occur as quickly as ninety days.
* Annual costs assume a 2.5% increase and yearly payments are fixed.
* There are currently 5 municipalities that utilize the County health services: Haledon, Prospect Park, Wanaque, West Milford, and Woodland Park.
* All of the REHS background education and experience includes septic inspections and lakes. Turnaround time for a request is reasonable and depends on many factors such as location of REHS at time of request, prior appointment scheduling, etc. Most are full time. Have other roles such as mosquito control, perform specialized environmental services under the authority of the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA). This identifies environmental and public health issues in Passaic County. They have existing knowledge of lakes and septic. Perform food establishment inspections. They are on call 24/7.
* Services such as shredding and hazardous waste will be more available in the Bloomingdale area.
* West Milford is in the process (summer 2024) of building a large county satellite facility for the PCDHS. More convenient to access health services.
* Nurses can do home visits for senior citizens in need. They also do school audits.
* Health Educators will reach out to schools to assess their needs. The principal of the school would decide what can be provided based on their requirements and desires.
* There is currently a Community Health Needs Survey being conducted. Bloomingdale is part of the assessment. This will help to identify the health needs of our town’s population.
* Emergency preparedness discussed; examples given of plans that were already put in place prior to pandemic. Pop up testing sites during COVID were quickly enacted. Future needs have been addressed should this occur again.
* LINCS ( Local Information Network and Communication System) is used by PCDHS to receive and share important information about public health across other health departments and agencies.
* Registered nurses are trained to recognize mental health issues however mental health services are provided though Human Services Division, not PCDHS.
* Reports are generated every month. The reports will be reviewed at regular BOH meetings. Representatives at the meetings can include the Health Officer, nurse, REHS.

1. **Public Discussion**

A motion was made by Ms. Fallon to open the meeting to public discussion. This motion was seconded by Mr. Catalano and all in favor. There was no public wishing to address the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Catalano to close the meeting to public discussion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meyers and all voted in favor.

1. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Catalano to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Pilaar and all voted in favor.

Next meeting April 1, 2024

Approved:

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Catalano

Secretary- Board of Health