

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
PUBLIC WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023**

Steven Clarke, President of the Board of Health (BOH) called the Board of Health meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Steven Clarke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Steven Clarke, DC, Lynne Spreen-Raffo, RN, Michael Sparozic, R.PH, Linda Brock, RN, Devaleena Sen, R.PH (Remote), Rudy Boonstra, Township Committee Liaison,

Staff in attendance: Cindy Risseeuw, Secretary, Laura Folco, Chief Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS)

Absent: Sau Yan Yee, MD, Donna Garbaccio, RN, Casey Colaneri

Cindy Risseeuw, Secretary, read the Open Public Work Session statement: "This Regular Work Session Meeting of the Wyckoff Board of Health is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our Annual Schedule of meetings. A copy of said Annual Schedule has been posted on the Bulletin Board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Municipal Clerk, The Record, The Ridgewood News and the North Jersey Herald and News – all newspapers having general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting the agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed, and mailed to said newspapers. Formal action may be taken at this meeting."

Approval of November 9, 2023, Public Business Meeting and Public Work Session Minutes:

The approval of the November 9, 2023, meeting minutes; motioned Mike Sparozic, Seconded Lynn Spreen-Raffo; all present in favor.

Report of Board Members:

None.

Public Comment:

None

Report of REHS:

Laura Folco reviewed the REHS log. Ms. Folco noted that Wah Sing paid the court fines prior to their court appearance. Board member discussion ensued.

New and Unfinished Business:

Guest Speakers: Doug Struyk, President & CEO of Christian Healthcare Center (CHCC)

Mr. Struyk stated that the CHCC is currently following all infection prevention guidelines. Mr. Struyk stated that the few mild cases of COVID, RSV and flu appear to be the result of visitation to facility residents. There is currently no mask mandate, however, they are encouraging the use of masks by visitors. Employees of the CHCC are all required to wear masks.

Mr. Struyk noted that currently the CHCC is fully staffed, meeting all the required guidelines of long-care facilities. In the event of staffing issues, CHCC would curtail admissions. The CHCC salaries are competitive, and the facility has moved from the recruitment phase into the employee retention phase.

CHCC has an open dialog with the Captain of the Wyckoff Volunteer Ambulance Corps. regarding the numerous calls to the facility. However, the residents of The Vista and Evergreen buildings call 911 themselves, while the long-term care facilities try to limit the ambulance calls which are not emergent. There are currently over 500 residents encompassing the entire campus, plus employees.

Mr. Struyk stated that long-term care in the future is moving toward smaller facilities. In the future healthcare for the aging is moving to keep the elderly: (1) at home longer and (2) utilizing long-term health care facilities as a last resort.

Mr. Struyk noted that CHCC will be managing the mental health services for the Valley Hospital. The former Valley Hospital in Ridgewood may be used as a skilled nursing facility.

Mr. Struyk thanked the Township of Wyckoff for all the support the town has given them over the past 100 years.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee was formed for the election of the 2024 officers of the Board of Health. The committee consists of Linda Brock and Mike Sparozic.

Linda Brock motioned to close the Public Work session; seconded, Mike Sparozic; all members present voting affirmatively.

The Board of Health Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.