

ESSEX REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION

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Carrie Nawrocki, Executive Director

Commission Meeting **February 20, 2024**

Opening of the Meeting

M. Raimo opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. by declaring that it had been duly advertised in accordance with Chapter 231 of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act of 1975.

Attendance

Present

M. Raimo, President
V. DeFilippo
L. Anello
C. Davenport
M. McGowan
S. Rufolo
K. Costello
P. Dillon
G. Miranda-Diaz
M. O'Reilly
C. Nawrocki, Director
R. Budris, Deputy Director
M. Leguizamon - CFO

Absent

S. Whyte
W. Wallace

Minutes of the Meeting of December 12, 2023

The minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by M. O'Reilly and a second by V. DeFilippo (Attachment 1).

Expenditure Report for December 1, 2023 through February 15, 2024

The expenditure report was unanimously ratified on a motion by L. Anello and a second by K. Costello (Attachment 2).

Announcements

C. Nawrocki announced Gina Miranda-Diaz as the new health officer for East Orange and the new representative on the board. She also announced that Tom Restaino has been appointed alternate representative on the board for Nutley and that Marsha McGowan has returned as the health officer for Newark and board representative for the city.

New Business

New Jersey Environmental Health Officers Conference

M. Raimo and C. Nawrocki covered when the conference was being held and said that the commission would cover the cost of the two health department members from each commission town (either health officer or registered Environmental Health Specialist) to attend the conference. The conference provides an excellent opportunity to earn the educational credits required for their licenses.

Appointment of alternate JIF Commissioner

C. Nawrocki proposed that commission employee Kathryn Mytaras be appointed as alternate representative for the agency on the the Suburban Metro Joint Insurance Fund (JIF).(Attachment 3) A motion by C. Davenport and a second by P. Dillon making the appointment pass unanimously.

ERHC Grant Funding Status

C. Nawrocki talked about the reduction in grant funding and how it may result in a changing in staffing.

Budget Amendments for 2023 and 2024

M. Leguizamon presented and explained the budget amendments for 2023 commission budget and the 2024 commission budget (Attachments 4 and 5). The amendments were passed unanimously on a motion by C. Davenport and a second by G. Miranda-Diaz.

Appointment of New Treasurer

With the unfortunate passing of T. DeNova and after discussion among the board, M. Raimo appointed K. Costello to be the new treasurer. This appointment was approved unanimously on a motion by M. O'Reilly and a second by V. DeFilippo.

Update from the Essex County Health Officer's Association

W. Wallace and C. Davenport updated the group that grant money may become available to local health departments. There was also a discussion about dues and a new treasurer.

Post-Retirement Benefit Exception

C. Nawrocki presented the conclusions of the finance and personnel committee on exceptions to the post-retirement benefit policy at the commission. The current policy requires employees hired after January 1, 1993 to work until age 65 to receive post-retirement benefits . An exception was proposed that would allow employees who were transferred under a pre-transfer arrangement and are working in the same position with another agency to collect a pro-rated portion (based on the ratio of years at Essex Regional Health Commission and overall years) of post-retirement benefits if they were in the state retirement system prior to January 1, 1993. The recommended exception was approved unanimously on a motion by M. O'Reilly and a second by V. DeFilippo.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by M. Raimo at 10:56 am.

I, Carrie Nawrocki, Director of the Essex Regional Health Commission do hereby certify that the foregoing are the minutes of a meeting held on February 20, 2024.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on this 15th day of May in the year 2024.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carrie Nawrocki".

Carrie Nawrocki, Executive Director