

This Special Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Governing Body was Called to Order by Mayor Charles McMullin in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

The Mayor announced this Special Meeting was called pursuant to applicable portions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate Notice was communicated to *The Courier News* and *The Star Ledger* on December 29, 2017, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and made available in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor McMullin, Council President Tozzi, Councilman Bray, Councilman Carra, Councilman Giraldi, Councilman McGinley, Councilman Orozco  
Also Present: Borough Attorney Paul Rizzo, Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Clerk Colvin  
Absent: Engineer Schrek

### **INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE**

Councilman Orozco

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor McMullin opened the first Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Former Councilman Jim Foohey, 1710 Rhine Blvd. – Mr. Foohey asked why a Special Meeting was called. Also, Mr. Foohey asked whether any possible change to the Board of Health was discussed with Board of Health members prior to this meeting.

Mayor McMullin said Introducing the Ordinance allows for discussions to happen after Introduction that can contain specific information, rather than generalities. The Mayor said three members were appointed to the Board of Health during the Reorganization Meeting on January 1. Also, the Mayor said, if there is going to be a change, it would be better to have it sooner rather than later, adding this matter is scheduled to be discussed at three meeting prior to final action: tonight, January 9 and January 15.

Mr. Foohey stated he does not see the need for this Special Meeting.

Board of Health Vice President Kathryn Mastice, 5 Granetz Place – Ms. Mastice said she felt notice should have been provided to all members of the Board of Health prior to this meeting. Also, Ms. Mastice questioned why the meeting is being held.

Mayor McMullin said the meeting is being held to have specifics with which to begin the process, which starts when an Ordinance drafted and Introduced. The Mayor again stated the Public will have opportunities to speak on three separate nights now that the Ordinance has been drafted.

Registrar of Vital Statistics and Secretary to the Board of Health Constance DelRocco, 403 Danbury Ave. – Ms. DelRocco said the Board of Health has been doing excellent work and is a responsible group. She does not understand why the Board of Health would need to be changed to an advisory board. Ms. DelRocco referenced an Ordinance the Board of Health passed in 2016 that raised the

age to purchase tobacco products in Raritan to 21 from 18 years of age and, recently, the Governor of New Jersey made that a standard throughout the state.

Councilman Giraldi said he can assure Ms. DelRocco that no decision has been made. Stating this has not been decided and he would like to hear pros and cons.

Resident Jill Brown, 18 Elmer Street – Ms. Brown said she previously served on the Board of Health and Councilman Bray did a wonderful job as liaison. Ms. Brown asked why this meeting is being held when there is a Council Meeting next week. She said the Board of Health does many good things, including the rabies clinic. Also, she used to check the senior citizens' blood pressures. Ms. Brown said decisions are being made by non-medical people, adding her concern for what she sees as a need for control.

Seeing and hearing no additional members of the Public, the Mayor closed this Public Comment portion of the meeting.

### **WORK SESSION**

#### **1. Public Safety Committee (CM)**

The Mayor said the current method of dealing with FEMA rules and regulations is not working so a discussion took place with Administrator Jaxel and the OEM members. Administrator Jaxel said a new committee would be called the Local Emergency Management Planning Committee. The Mayor said he wanted to make Council and the Public aware of the pending new committee. There is a need for a new OEM coordinator. There is a possibility to share with Somerville. There will be additional conversations.

Councilman Giraldi asked if this is just informational at this time. The Mayor said yes.

### **ORDINANCE – INTRODUCTION**

#### **Ordinance No. 2018-01**

An Ordinance of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, Amending the Code of the Borough of Raritan in Order to Replace the Board of Health with a Public Health Committee

The Mayor again stated there will be more opportunity for discussion, namely at the meeting this coming Tuesday, January 9 and again at the Second Reading and Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, January 15.

On motion by Councilman McGinley, seconded by Council President Tozzi, Council moved to Introduce Ordinance No. 2018-01.

#### **Recorded Vote:**

Yea: Bray, Carra, Giraldi, McGinley, Tozzi

Nay: Orozco

Abstain: x

Motion Passed: 5-1

Mayor McMullin said the Ordinance is now Introduced and the process will continue.

**BILL LIST**

None

**PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor McMullin opened the second Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Former Councilman Jim Foohey, 1710 Rhine Blvd. – Mr. Foohey asked for the reason to change the Board of Health to a committee. The former Councilman said there has to be a reason to change an autonomous board to a committee.

Councilman Bray said he is in agreement with Councilman Giraldi, there will further discussions, including at the next meeting. This is just the Introduction tonight.

Mr. Foohey said he recommends discussing things with the Board of Health.

Councilman Giraldi said the Board of Health will have a platform at the next meeting to speak, and again stated nothing has been decided. This is the preliminary stage.

Mr. Foohey again asked for a reason.

Mayor McMullin said the former Borough Clerk, two years ago, recommended bringing the Board of Health under the Governing Body. At the time, the Mayor said he was not sure whether such a move would make sense. The Mayor said a series of meetings during the summer of 2017 then resulted in some confusion related the economics and service of the Board of Health, namely the hours of the Office of the Registrar.

The Mayor said he wanted Council to consider whether they wanted to have administrative control over that office, as well as financial control over the office and the entire Board of Health.

Mayor McMullin said he then asked Borough Attorney Rizzo to draft an Ordinance, which was Introduced tonight, to get the administrative and financial control within the Governing Body. The current members of the Board of Health could then continue as the Public Health Committee because there is no issue with performance, adding the reason was fiscal and service to the community.

Mr. Foohey said the Governing Body has not yet seen the raw budget. Mayor McMullin said the Governing Body passed a temporary budget, which included a substantial increase for the Board of Health, specifically for the Office of the Registrar.

Seeing and hearing no one, the Mayor closed this Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Councilman Giraldi asked whether the Governing Body could go into Executive Session. Attorney Rizzo stated they could not because an Executive Session was not requested and placed on the Agenda prior to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilman Carra, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote

All in Favor

Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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Eric M. Colvin, RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_