

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**of the**  
**OAKLAND BOARD OF HEALTH**

**May 18, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Tiffinger called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Ashkenazi, Mr. LaForgia, Mr. Laterra, Mr. Provenzale, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger

**ABSENT MEMBERS**

Mr. Ashkenazi was absent due to recent surgery.

On motion of Mr. LaForgia, seconded by Mr. Provenzale, the Board excused Mr. Ashkenazi's absence.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Council Liaison Pasquale Pignatelli, BOH Attorney Thomas J. Romans., and Principal REHS Kristin Caperino

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Tiffinger announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the open public meetings law, duly announced, submitted to the newspaper and advertised more than 48 hours in advance of the meeting and notice posted in the municipal building and on the borough website.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public was present at the meeting.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the April 2021 meeting minutes.

On motion of Mr. LaForgia seconded by Mr. Provenzale, the March 2021 minutes were approved.

Roll Call: All Yeas – Ms. Ashkenazi, Mr. LaForgia, Mr. Laterra, Mr. Provenzale, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger

**REVIEW REPORTS**

The Board reviewed the following reports:

- BCDHS Public Health Nursing & Activity Report & CDRSS Report & Audits – April
- REHS' Monthly Report – April
- Tyco Animal Control Report – April
- Secretary's/Registrar's Report – April

On motion of Mr. Provenzale seconded by Ms. Ashkenazi, the reports were accepted.

Roll Call: All Yeas – Ms. Ashkenazi, Mr. LaForgia, Mr. Laterra, Mr. Provenziale, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

The Board reviewed the following bills:

#### **Services Charged to 2021 Budget:**

#### **Services to be Charged to 2021 Budget:**

<b>5/1/2021 – Tyco Animal Control</b> (Animal Control Services for April, per contract)	<b>\$ 1,325.00</b>
<b>5/1/2021 – Thomas J. Romans, Esq.</b> (Retainer due for attending 5/18/2021 BOH Meeting, per 2021 Professional Services Contract)	<b>\$ 243.75</b>
<b>5/5/2021 – Bergen County Shared Services</b> (Public Health Officer \$ 8,672.72 & REHS \$ 15,798.63 for Jan-June 2021, per contract)	<b>\$ 24,471.35</b>

On motion of Mr. Talucci, seconded by Mr. LaForgia, the Board approved the bills for payment.

Roll Call: All Yeas – Ms. Ashkenazi, Mr. LaForgia, Mr. Laterra, Mr. Provenziale, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Discuss Marijuana Ban in Oakland**

Mr. Tiffinger asked for the Board Members' input on the statement that was sent out to all the Board Members for their review.

Mr. Romans advised that from a legal perspective, pertinent to the statement, he agreed that it would be in the best interest of the Borough of Oakland to have a temporary ban on any cultivation, manufacture and sale of marijuana until the State of New Jersey promulgates the rules and regulations for such.

Councilman Pignatelli informed the Board that the Mayor is forming an ad hoc committee containing 3 people that are for and 3 people that are against marijuana-related business in the town. Mr. Talucci has agreed to sit on that committee, and can update the BOH as he attends these meetings.

Mr. Talucci said asked Councilman Pignatelli if the town would gain anything from the various marijuana-related service lines in town. Councilman Pignatelli stated that there is a monetary benefit of 2% to 4% of proceeds for the various service lines. He has asked people to have an open mind about the advantages of the marijuana-related service lines. There are some security issues, and no They would have to go before the Planning Board for a hearing to conduct any of the service lines. The Planning Board endorses this in Oakland, however, they still need a hearing.

Mr. Talucci discussed the THC content that has varied in marijuana throughout time, and he stated that there have been some findings that hybridization with higher concentration of THC levels than the levels in the 1980s may have caused increases in states that have legalized it with increase in crime, suicide, addiction, OR visits, and psychosis. One concern is that kids can get their hands on nubs and easily create product that contains a very high THC level. He would like to know if the THC concentration would be tested when the marijuana was cultivated.

Councilman Pignatelli said that the Police Chief told him that the regulatory commission is not even considering that. Mr. Talucci asked how can you keep it out of the wrong hands. Mr. Talucci said that even if the town doesn't allow it, neighboring towns could allow it. Councilman Pignatelli mentioned that it is available in Paramus but only on Route 17. He said Oakland may wind up allowing certain aspects, but that is not yet established.

Councilman Pignatelli suggested that the ad hoc committee publish a white paper on it and forward it to the regulatory commission with concerns and questions.

Ms. Ashkenazi asked if the shop was going to manufacture product. Councilman Pignatelli responded that there would be a retail store that would buy from a wholesaler or a distributor and then package and sell it.

Councilman Pignatelli said another concern is in regard to policing. He stated that now, police may not search a car if the car has been stopped and the officer smells marijuana. In order to search the car there must be some other reason than smell. Councilman Pignatelli added that there is no test for marijuana quantity in the system, such as that of a breathalyzer for alcohol.

Ms. Ashkenazi added that parents may now be notified when teenagers are caught with marijuana. Councilman Pignatelli confirmed that. He added that the legalization is for people over 21, but that younger people could theoretically find someone over 21 to go buy it for them.

Regarding medical marijuana, Councilman Pignatelli does not believe anyone objects to that.

Mr. LaForgia said that now, it would be regulated as opposed to people doing drugs that are not regulated, and there is a demand and he would like to make the supply as safe as possible. Mr. Talucci responded that the illegal market will then become more competitive so it will be undercut and be cheaper and stronger than before so as to have people purchase it. Mr. LaForgia agreed, but said that at least the legal market would be regulated, so there would be some accountability.

Councilman Pignatelli asked if there is an explosion of addiction and people have to be treated, who would pay for it? Who would be accountable? If insurance, would insurance get more expensive?

Mr. Talucci said that over time, marijuana has been shown not to be the soft drug that it used to be considered to be and it damages lungs more than tobacco. Councilman Pignatelli added that it interferes with cognitive abilities of young people. Mr. LaForgia agreed, but said that there are other avenues of delivery – it does not have to be smoked - and that they would only be able to make determinations after studying effects of that over time.

Councilman Pignatelli suggested that the tax money that the State would receive from marijuana sales should use some of the money for education, with it being used to educate children about it from a very early age not to use it. Mr. LaForgia said that perhaps if Oakland allows marijuana service lines eventually, the revenue received should be to educate the youth. Councilman Pignatelli agreed that if he is on the Council at that point he would push for that.

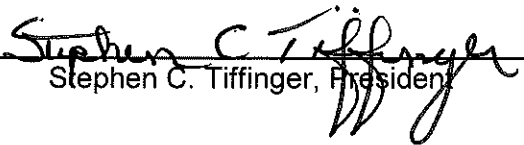
Mr. Tiffinger asked the Board Members if they would like to send the Board of Health's statement regarding a marijuana ban to the Mayor and Council. The members all agreed that they would. Mr. Tiffinger said that the statement will be sent.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. LaForgia seconded by Mr. Provenza the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Roll Call: All Yeas – Ms. Ashkenazi, Mr. LaForgia, Mr. Laterra, Mr. Provenza, Mr. Talucci, Mr. Tiffinger

APPROVED:

  
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Stephen C. Tiffinger, President

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Steele, Secretary

DATE: 6/17/2021