

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission  
Special Meeting (via video conference)  
December 23, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission was held on the above date via video conference and called to order by President Mr. Greg Riley by reading the Sunshine Law Statement at 7:05 pm

2. Roll Call

Green Brook: Dr. Jon Fourre, Mr. Bob Longo  
Warren: Mr. Greg Riley, Mr. Malcom Plager  
Watchung: Ms. Julie Gunther, Mr. Bruce Ruck  
Others in attendance: Mr. Kevin Sumner, Health Officer

3. Mr. Riley thanked those present for participating in the special meeting to address an item of some urgency. The finance committee has discussed a payment to the Health Officer for extra hours and effort related to the COVID-19 response. Any compensation approved would be paid for by a state grant but needs to be submitted shortly. He further advised that he spoke with 2 administrators outside the Commission to learn what others were doing. He was advised that their Health Officers are exempt employees and not included in standard overtime compensation. He checked with school administrators and learned they are not being compensated for any overtime. Based on the information received and in consultation with the Finance Committee he is recommending a one time "Performance Award" of \$3,500.00 to the Health Officer to be paid by the grant. There being no discussion the action was moved by M. Plager with second by B. Ruck. All were in favor.

4. Minutes

- a. J. Fourre moved to adopt the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting with minor spelling and grammar changes as reviewed by the Secretary, second by M. Plager. All in Favor

5. Old Business:

- a. 2021 Budget – K. Sumner advised members that he had received a fair amount of push back from the towns regarding the potential for significant increase in the 2021 member contributions. Several have asked if there was any way to phase in the increase. They recognized and did not dispute the resource needs of the health department but were concerned about their local financial situations and requesting some relief. Sumner suggested the Commission offer to offset 50% of the increase with unexpended and surplus funds. Members discussed and agreed to offset 50% of the increase attributable to the new position. So the 50% offset will not apply to the 2% overall increase in the

budget. J. Fourre moved to phase in the increase attributable to the new position over two years, seconded by J. Gunther. All were in favor. K. Sumner will draft a letter of explanation to the towns and it will be co-signed by the Health Officer and President.

6. Public Portion – No public present
7. Adjournment - There being no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, was made by J. Fourre, seconded by B. Ruck. Vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin G. Sumner", written over a horizontal line.

---

Kevin G Sumner, Secretary