

**Board of Health
Tuesday, June 3, 2025
Hybrid Meeting / Penn Room**

Members Attending: K. Schorn, J. Dethoff, B. Hospidor, J. Schwartz, K. Wang - virtually

Others Attending: S. Smith – in person; S. Herbert, J. Melendez - virtually

Dr. Dethoff called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. He stated that a quorum is present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Ms. Schorn, seconded by Mr. Hospidor, to approve the April 1, 2025 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- Health Inspections

Ms. Herbert provided the following update:

- 79 Health Inspections
- 28 Laundromats

She stated that her main focus has been on fee collection which is going well. She stated that two restaurants needed to be closed to address pest control issues.

Mr. Lachat connected to the meeting virtually at this time.

Dr. Dethoff questioned what the laundromat inspection entails. Ms. Herbert stated that the lint vents and exhaust are inspected as well as the cleanliness of detergent dispensers. She noted the need to prevent lint fires and mold issues.

- Lead Abatement Program

Mr. Melendez stated that there are eleven units pending. He stated that the federal grant extension is also still in progress.

- EMS

Deputy Chief Sninsky provided the following information via email:

- In the process of doing selection and testing of a possible 8 Emergency Medical Technicians, to send them to Paramedic school. The Process takes about a year, but we are essentially “growing our own paramedics”. I will have an update at the next meeting to discuss where we stand in the process and how many pass the entry requirements.
- As has been published and seen in the news, the Centers for Excellence in local government (CELG) report on EMS has been shared with City Council and the key take aways

- 1) EMS is the responsibility of each municipality- and the City of Reading does support and sustain this service.
- 2) Several EMS agencies of Berks County, not hospital based, and not municipally operated, are having issues as insurance reimbursements are minimal or do not come close to meeting the funding to maintain operations. This very well could have a trickle-down effect on the RFD, as we can be covering more calls to our neighbors.
- 3) City of Reading participates in mutual aid, which means if all of our ambulances are committed to 911 calls, a neighboring service covers a 911 call in our area. We were touted in the report as giving as much mutual aid as we receive, as we do not burden any outside agency.
- National Night Out on Penn Street is Tuesday August 5th, 2025. We will have an ambulance and EMS Lt vehicle present, which will showcase our equipment and be on hand so the public can see our equipment and what we are able to do to treat the Citizens and Visitors to the City of Reading.

Dr. Dethoff questioned the National Night Out event. Ms. Smith stated that it is a way for City services to directly interact with residents in a fun way. She stated that trucks and equipment will be on display. Ms. Herbert agreed and stated that there is also food, drinks, music, and games. She stated that it is a fun event.

Dr. Dethoff stated that National Night Out is the same day as the Board's next meeting. Ms. Smith suggested that Board members attend the meeting in person at City Hall and then go to the event.

Ms. Schorn stated that College Manor Pool has a similar event on the same day.

OLD BUSINESS

- County Health Department

Dr. Wang expressed the belief that the County will not be moving this initiative forward at this time.

- Fluoride in Drinking Water

Dr. Dethoff stated that this issue has become a national focus and noted the need for the Board to address the issue at a future time.

- Measles Outbreak

Dr. Schwartz stated that she has not seen any cases of measles.

Dr. Wang stated that statewide, PA has seen a few cases of measles. She stated that one case was related to the Texas outbreak and two were related to international travel. She stated that nationwide there are already more cases of measles than all of 2024. She noted the need to keep an eye on the outbreaks.

- Tick-borne Illnesses

Dr. Dethoff questioned if there has been an increase in Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Dr. Wang stated that she has not seen any increases. Dr. Schwartz stated that there are tick-borne illnesses that present similarly to Lyme Disease. She stated that only 20% of people diagnosed with Lyme Disease have the target rash.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 4 pm hybridly via Zoom and in the Penn Room. Dr. Dethoff encouraged all to attend in person and then enjoy National Night Out.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk