

Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Geauga County Health District Office
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

Mr. J. David Benenati, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:15 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Ms. Melanie Eppich, and Mrs. Christina Livers. Mr. Timothy Goergen and Dr. Janet O'Hara were not present.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner; and Daniel Mix, Personal Health Services Director and Michael Tusick, RS.

Others present: There were seven others were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Benenati asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Board Appreciation

Ann McDermott for Dan McDermott, Frank Gliha, Dr. Donald Bowers and Rich Lang were present. Nan Burr was not available for the meeting. Mr. Benenati read each resolution honoring each person. Each resolution was approved with a roll call vote. The Board and Mr. Weisdack thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Geauga County Health District.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes for April 19, 2010 was tabled.

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the minutes for May 17, 2010 regular Board of Health meeting. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

The approval of the minutes for June 21, 2010 was tabled.

V. Current Expenses/ Financial Report

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the Current Expenses June 17, 2010 to July 14, 2010. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

VI. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Update

Mr. Weisdack provided the Board with a report showing that the number of sewage permits issued to date for 2010 stands at 127.

Mr. Weisdack stated that conference calls are being held regarding the new sewage rules. There has been a lot of discussion regarding the definition of a public health nuisance. Geauga County has had this in practice for a long time but there a lot of other counties that must address this issue now. The new rules will become effective January 1, 2012.

Mr. Weisdack stated that he may contact the Board's Sewage Committee to set up a meeting to establish policies for the sewage rules.

b. Construction & Demolition Debris Survey

Mr. Weisdack received a letter from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency that we are in substantial compliance for the Construction & Demolition Debris Program.

Ohio has had 22 cases of Rabies so far this year consisting of nineteen bats, two raccoons and one skunk. There have been no cases reported in Geauga County.

Mr. Weisdack stated he had previously been informed that there was going to be a 10% reduction in State Subsidies. When the State Subsidies revenue was received we found that it had reduced by 40%. State Subsidies was reduced last year also. We previously received \$27,500.00 and this year we received \$15,000.00. There was no communication on this 40% cut until after it actually happened. Many local health districts complained to ODH about the lack of communication about this substantial cut.

Mr. Weisdack stated that currently our incoming revenue is satisfactory. He anticipates that in the fall, revenue will most likely drop sharply. He asked the Board if they would be agreeable to employees taking time off without pay voluntarily. The Board indicated that would be acceptable. Mr. Benenati indicated that would be a noble thing to do but might not be enough. Mr. Weisdack stated that during a meeting with the Environmental Health staff, he mentioned that mandatory furlough days may need to be implemented.

Mr. Weisdack stated that laying off staff to save money doesn't always save money. When an employee is laid off, we pay the money Unemployment office sends that employee because the Health District is a self-payer. We currently are still paying unemployment for an employee that was laid off two years ago.

Mr. Weisdack stated he will be doing everything he can not to increase the inside millage.

VII. Administrative Hearings

a. Jody & Nicole Clinger, Calvin Humphreys, Craig Mathews, Laura Blackson, Matthew Tyler Hawk, Jeffrey Porcianko, and Reuben Hershberger

None of the residents were present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned Jody & Nicole Clinger, 12202 Brookview Dr., Huntsburg Twp., Calvin Humphreys, 11172 Chardon Rd., Chardon Twp., Craig Mathews, 14690 Edgehill Dr., Newbury Twp., Laura Blackson, 11625 Hosford Rd., Chardon Twp., Matthew Tyler Hawk, 8663 N. Spring Valley Park, Bainbridge Twp., Jeffrey Porcianko, 9823 South Blvd., Auburn Twp. and Reuben Hershberger, 13480 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp. These cases are in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations that states: "An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed prior to the transfer of ownership of any parcel with said system. The evaluation shall be conducted by a member of the Health District and if

necessary corrective action(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed.”
Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Jody & Nicole Clinger, 12202 Brookview Dr., Huntsburg Twp., Calvin Humphreys, 11172 Chardon Rd., Chardon Twp., Craig Mathews, 14690 Edgehill Dr., Newbury Twp., Laura Blackson, 11625 Hosford Rd., Chardon Twp., Matthew Tyler Hawk, 8663 N. Spring Valley Park, Bainbridge Twp., and Jeffrey Porcianko, 9823 South Blvd., Auburn Twp. and Reuben Hershberger, 13480 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that Jody & Nicole Clinger, 12202 Brookview Dr., Huntsburg Twp., Calvin Humphreys, 11172 Chardon Rd., Chardon Twp., Craig Mathews, 14690 Edgehill Dr., Newbury Twp., Laura Blackson, 11625 Hosford Rd., Chardon Twp., Matthew Tyler Hawk, 8663 N. Spring Valley Park, Bainbridge Twp., and Jeffrey Porcianko, 9823 South Blvd., Auburn Twp. and Reuben Hershberger, 13480 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp. be required to make application, pay for, schedule, and complete a For Sale of Property evaluation and/or obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow these orders will result in referral to the prosecutor’s office for legal action. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

b. Wildwood Holdings

No one representing Wildwood Holdings was present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Wildwood Holdings, 11040 Mayfield Rd., Munson Twp. This case is in regards to the following sections of the Geauga County Health District Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states:

3701-29-02(D) states: “No household sewage disposal system or part thereof shall create a nuisance.”

3701-29-02(E) states: “No person shall discharge, or permit to discharge, treated or untreated sewage, the overflow drainage or contents of a sewage tanks, or other putrescible, impure, or offensive wastes into an abandoned water supply, well, spring, or cistern or into a natural or artificial well, sink hole, crevice, or other opening extending into limestone, sandstone, shale, or other rock formation, or normal ground water table.”

3701-29-02(F) states: “No person shall discharge, or permit to be discharged, treated or untreated sewage... or offensive wastes onto the surface of the ground, into any street, road, alley, open excavation, or underground drain.”

3701-29-02(G) (4) states: “When test results indicate that the standards set forth in regulation 3701-29-02(G) (3) are not being met or nuisances are being created, additional treatment devices may be require by the Board of Health.” Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Wildwood Holdings, 11040 Mayfield Rd., Munson Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that the owner be required to obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in the referral to the Prosecutor’s office for legal action. Ms.

Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

c. Benjamis & Alexis Davis

Neither Benjamis nor Alexis Davis were present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Benjamis & Alexis Davis, 16825 Moseley Rd., Thompson Twp. This case is in regards to the following sections of the Geauga County Health District Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states:

3701-29-02(D) states: "No household sewage disposal system or part thereof shall create a nuisance."

3701-29-02(E) states: "No person shall discharge, or permit to discharge, treated or untreated sewage, the overflow drainage or contents of a sewage tanks, or other putrescible, impure, or offensive wastes into an abandoned water supply, well, spring, or cistern or into a natural or artificial well, sink hole, crevice, or other opening extending into limestone, sandstone, shale, or other rock formation, or normal ground water table."

3701-29-02(F) states: "No person shall discharge, or permit to be discharged, treated or untreated sewage... or offensive wastes onto the surface of the ground, into any street, road, alley, open excavation, or underground drain." Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Benjamis & Alexis Davis, 16825 Moseley Rd., Thompson Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that the owners be required to obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in the referral to the Prosecutor's office for legal action. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mix reported that the Public Health Emergency Response grant will end July 30, 2010. This was funding used for H1N1. The contract employees that worked under that grant will be leaving, as well as one employee who is actually retiring. Herb Shubick will remain with the Health District on a volunteer basis to work with the MRC. Mr. Mix stated that he is very grateful for the service these people gave to the Health District.

The Board will be asked to adopt the PHEP Budget which covers August 9, 2010 through August 8, 2011. Mr. Mix stated that the funds have not been awarded yet and there is rumor that there will be cuts. He is asking for approval up to \$109,544.00. The Board was also asked to adopt the Cities Readiness Initiative Budget which also covers the same period. Again, there is talk of cuts of this funding. Mr. Mix asked for approval for up to \$13,332.00. Mr. Mix stated the reason for asking approval before we know exactly how much will be awarded is because it must go to the Budget Commission before the start of the grant year. If there are any changes, the budgets will be brought back to the Board for revision approval.

The PHEP budget will fund 1.6 FTE and the CRI will fund .4 FTE. This year, the grant application required that the local health districts show 10% matching funds. Mr. Mix stated he projects that the matching funds will rise each grant year until it reaches a 100% match. He anticipates at the time the grant will end.

b. Nursing

The Board was asked to approve the advertising and hiring of a Nursing Director. Mr. Mix stated that he and Mr. Weisdack discussed the changes to the job description that were presented last month. Mr. Mix stated that he expects a lot of interest in this position.

c. WIC

The WIC June caseload was 968.

The Board was asked to recognize August as Breastfeeding Awareness Month in conjunction with the Governors declaration. Ohio Ranks 47th in initiation rates at 58.5%. For Geauga County it is 72.8% of newborns at UH Geauga and 88% of newborns at Middlefield Care Center. Mr. Mix distributed more information about breastfeeding to the Board that will be included on the website soon.

d. Health Education

There was no report for Health Education.

IX. Old Business

a. Garrison

Mr. Weisdack stated that Garrison Enterprises is the company that was to provide a web-based computer program that would allow the residents to research information that the Health District had about properties in Geauga County. A contract was entered into with Garrison Enterprises in 2006. There were certain timeframes that were promised. There have been many different problems getting this program on-line.

Mr. Weisdack, Mr. Mix and Susan Wieland, Assistant Prosecutor office has been in discussion regarding this contract. Ms. Wieland has sent a letter to Garrison Enterprises to contact her. Garrison has indicated they would have something done by July 26, 2010. The Board encouraged the cancelling of this contract. Too much time, energy and money has been spent.

In the meantime, the computer system we currently use has now gone to web-based.

X. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:58 pm to discuss pending legal case. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting reconvened at 9:10 pm. There was no action taken on pending litigation.

XI. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 7.10-a to approve the PHEP Budget GY2011 in an amount not to exceed \$109,544.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.10-b to approve the Cities Readiness Initiative Budget GY2011 in an amount not to exceed \$13,332.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.10-c to recognize August as Breastfeeding Awareness Month. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 7.10-d to approve the advertising and hiring of a Nursing Director. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

XII. Other Business

There was no Other Business

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held August 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Ms. Eppich moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Weisdack, R.S., M.A., M.P.H.
Secretary of the Board

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