

Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2012, 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 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Mr. Timothy Goergen, Mrs. Christina Livers, Ms. Melanie Eppich and Dr. Janet O'Hara.

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

Others present: Greg Farris, Tessa Baker and Frank Baker.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Goergen moved to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, abstain; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, abstain; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the January 17, 2012 regular Board of Health meeting with corrections. The corrections were typographical and grammatical in nature and did not change the content of the minutes. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, abstain; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/ Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses January 10, 2012 to February 14, 2012. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack has spoken with the two representatives on the sewage committee that are working with him. They have indicated that they are very frustrated with ODH about the proposed rules. The representatives have stated that their ideas and comments are not being taken into consideration. Mr. Weisdack suggested that they generate a letter to the Director of the Ohio Department of Health.

Mr. Weisdack stated he would continue to fight for the residents of the county regarding the proposed sewage rules.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and type of sewage disposal permits issued.

a. General Information

Senator Capri Cafaro and Senator John Eklund now represent Geauga County. Senator Cafaro represents the east side of the county and Senator Eklund represents the western side of the county.

Mr. Weisdack passed out the 2011 Geauga County Health District Annual Report to the Board of Health. The Board indicated they thought it was very well prepared and presented.

Mr. Weisdack reported that recently HB32 was passed. Section 1 of this bill was designed to allow Registered Sanitarians to site sewage systems on properties without any protests from the professional surveyors group. Section 2 of the bill refers to the existing code, which would be the 2007 rules. Mr. Weisdack asked for a clarification in writing on that section but has not received it yet.

VI. Variance

a. Farris Excavating/Tessa Baker

Greg Farris was present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Farris Excavating in behalf of Tessa Baker for the property located at 11167 Mayfield Rd., Munson Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(C) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states, "Each household sewage disposal system shall serve one dwelling on an individual lot and shall be properly maintained and operated by the owners. All the sewage from the dwelling shall discharge into the system." (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

VII. Administrative Hearings

a. Tom Swank, Mountain View Apartments #1-6 and #7 & 8

Tom Swank was not present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by Tom Swank, Mountain View Apartments #1-6 and #7 and 8, 10623 Mitchells Mill Rd., Chardon Twp. These cases are in regards to the following sections of Article V, of the Geauga County Health District Semi-Public Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states:

Section 52.05.02: "APPLICATION – Any person, firm, association, or corporation who, subsequent to the first day of September of that year, has intent of operating a semi-public sewage disposal system must obtain an inspection certificate from the Geauga County Health Department."

Section 52.05.04: "CERTIFICATE ISSUANCE – Certificate renewal forms will be mailed the last week of July. Owners of the property are responsible for returning the completed form and proper payment to the Geauga County Health Department by the filing deadline of September 1 of that year. All applications post marked later than the September 1 date shall be regarded as late and be subject to a 25% late fee. The fee schedule shall be adopted by the Geauga County Board of Health."

The owner of these properties has failed to make payment for the operational/inspection certificate for their Semi-Public Sewage Disposal System for the 2011-2012 certificate year. Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists at the properties owned by Tom Swank, Mountain View Apartments #1-6 and #7 and 8, 10623 Mitchells Mill Rd., Chardon Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved that Tom Swank, Mountain View Apartments #1-6 and #7 and 8, 10623 Mitchells Mill Rd., Chardon Twp. be required to make application and pay for the annual permit and any

associated late fees to operate a semi-public sewage treatment system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to do so will result in referral to the prosecutor's office for legal action. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

b. Mr. & Mrs. James Leslie

Due to Mr. Leslie being ill, this case will be presented at the March Board of Health meeting.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff has held two planning meetings with the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) and met with the regional CRI to prepare for the SNS Assessment for 2012 with the CDC.

Mr. Mix reported that the staff continues planning meetings with the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services to update the Geauga County Emergency Operations Plan and the local emergency planning committee. They have also been communicating with the new emergency coordinator at UH Geauga Medical Center to discuss updating our MOU and how we will work together during public health emergencies.

Currently, the staff is focusing on updating our current planning documents, including the SNS Plan, Distribution Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, and First Responder Plans. We are in the planning stages to conduct communications tests, RAND drills, Communicable Disease Surveillance, MRC Coordination, and additional ICS training.

b. Nursing Services

On February 9, 2012, the staff hosted a public health introductory seminar for 22 KSU Geauga nursing students and several faculty members. The staff gave a broad overview of public health services offered by the department. The students were very interested in emergency preparedness and environmental health services.

In 2009, the children's immunization clinics in Middlefield were moved to St. Lucy's Parish. We have experienced many conflicts while holding the clinics there. To reduce the conflicts, Mr. Mix requested the Board approve an agreement with St. Lucy's to rent space to hold the clinics for \$75.00 per quarter. This agreement was drafted by the prosecutor's office.

Mr. Mix reported that the Health District Information Service software package would be expanded to incorporate four new programs that are currently being tracked in Microsoft Access. These include TB testing, BCMH, newborn home visits and Amish Well Child. This will eliminate creation of databases that are not compatible and reduce the need to double-enter client information.

c. WIC

The November caseload was 864, which is a slight decrease over December.

The Board was asked to approve a revision to the 2012 WIC budget. The budget was cut by \$5,528.00 (2.5%) which is a decrease from the original budget. The cuts were made from contract WIC professional hours and other direct cost line items.

The Ohio Department of Health asked WIC to prepare scenarios for 2012 funding cuts of 7.5% to 15%. This would represent cuts from \$16,000.00 to \$32,000.00. In addition, one staff member currently not on our health insurance intends on enrolling in 2013. This adds about \$11,000.00 additional costs to the program. After discussion with the staff, we are recommending elimination of the contract health professional and reduction of the department time by 10%. This means that all WIC staff will work 72 hours per pay period. The staff seems content with this decision.

Preliminary discussions are being held with Lake County General Health District to explore how we could collaborate to address the financial impact of WIC budget cuts. This could include sharing resources or combining the WIC programs. The Board was asked to adopt a resolution of support for the LCGHD to apply for grant funding from the State of Ohio, Office of Development, local government innovation fund. This grant program is extended to all government entities that are exploring collaborations to address reduced funding that has permeated government.

The Board was asked to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with LCGHD to enter into a feasibility study to determine how to address the 15% cuts WIC faces in 2013. Potentially, Geauga County Health District and Lake County General Health District will split \$25,000.00 to conduct this study. The Board asked Mr. Weisdack if he was comfortable with doing this study with LCGHD. Mr. Weisdack indicated that since this is only a feasibility study, he was. Mr. Goergen inquired as to whether turning the entire GCHD WIC program over to LCGHD would be explored. Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Mix indicated it would be. Mr. Weisdack added that we would do what is best for the residents of Geauga County.

d. Community Health Assessments

A meeting was held on February 14, 2012 with planning partners to review a draft report of the findings of the community health assessment. The meeting was attended by 34 partners within the community. The findings seem to be the current topic around town and we are hopeful this will improve grant funding opportunities at many agencies in Geauga County. The final report will be published April 18, 2012 at a community meeting.

The State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) planning committee will meet on March 7, 2012. At that time, the committee will finalize the distribution of the work for prioritization. Mr. Mix reported that when the priorities were identified for Ohio, the committee realized that many agencies are already working on some of these initiatives. The committee will meet with some of those agencies and task forces to determine how the findings can be melded into their work to reduce duplication of efforts.

IX. Old Business

a. Preliminary 2013 Geauga County Health District Budget and HDAC Schedule

Mr. Weisdack distributed the proposed 2013 Geauga County Health District budget to the Board and provided a final review.

Mrs. Livers moved 2.12-a to approve the Preliminary 2013 Geauga County Health District Budget as presented and allow the budget to be presented at the preliminary budget meeting of the HDAC. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

b. Senator Eklund Meeting Update

Mr. Weisdack reported on the meeting he had with Senator Eklund recently. Mr. Weisdack provided Senator Eklund with the For Sale of Property report that Mr. Mix had produced a few years ago. The senator indicated he would be reviewing the report and would be contacting ODH to find out why they are not willing to compromise on some of the items within the proposed sewage rules. He told Mr. Weisdack he would contact him afterwards.

Mr. Weisdack expressed his concerns about fracking in the area also. Senator Eklund indicated he needs to obtain more facts on the issue and will make his determination on his position at that time.

Mr. Weisdack asked Senator Eklund to get information from ODH as to why there is such a discrepancy between urban and rural health departments. Senator Eklund indicated he would contact ODH and ask that question.

X. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:26 pm to discuss pending legal cases. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes. At 8:47 p.m. the Board returned from Executive Session and immediately went back in to discuss the Health Commissioner's evaluation. The meeting reconvened at 9:30 pm. Mr. Benenati stated no action would be taken by the Board on either item.

XI. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 2.12-b to approve the 2012 WIC Budget Revision in an amount not to exceed \$215,606.00. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 2.12-c to approve the rental agreement with St. Lucy's to rent space for clinics in the amount of \$75.00 per quarter. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 2.12-d to approve the payment to CHC Software for a one-year maintenance agreement in the amount of \$3,215.44. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 2.12-e to approve the 2012 Geauga County Health District budget adjustment to increase funds as follows: \$25,000.00-BOH Other; \$10,000.00-BOH Equipment; and \$15,000.00-Sewage Equipment. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 2.12-f to adopt Resolution 1-2012 for the intent to participate in the Lake-Geauga Public Health System & Government Innovation Study. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 2.12-g to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Lake County Health District to study the feasibility of merging Lake and Geauga WIC programs. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mr. Weisdack stated he would be doing staff evaluations and will be proposing salary increases based on what had been previously discussed at the budget workshop. Mr. Weisdack stated he planned to bring the salary increases to the Board in April with an effective date sometime in May.

Mr. Weisdack asked the Board what the ranges of increase should be. After discussion, it was decided 2% base increase up to 5% for top performers because of all they have gone through and that they have waited 3 years.

Anything over 2% will be based on performance. Discussion ensued whether poor evaluations should receive the 2% base increase and whether giving the base increase contradicts a poor evaluation. Mrs. Livers stated that everyone should get the base. Beyond that, it would be up to Mr. Weisdack's evaluations to determine who gets more. Mr. Weisdack stated he would counsel anyone who gets a poor evaluation.

Evaluations will be based on not only Mr. Weisdack's evaluation, but also the opinion of Mr. Mix and Mr. Tusick.

XII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the Atrium of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

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