

Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Geauga County Health District Office
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Christina Livers, Pro-Tempore, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Mrs. Christina Livers, Pro-Tempore, Dr. Janet O'Hara and Mr. David Gragg were present. Mr. Timothy Goergen and Mr. J. David Benenati were not present.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner and Dan Mix, Personal Health Services Director.

Others present: There were no other people in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Livers asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2014 regular Board of Health meeting with corrections. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, January 16, 2014 to February 12, 2014. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack has been speaking to the media about the sewage rules. There was an article in the Maple Leaf recently. Mr. Weisdack wants to be sure the word is out to the public about the proposed rules. We have received phone calls and emails from residents inquiring who they should contact to oppose the rules.

Mr. Weisdack recently attended a meeting at the Ashtabula County Health District with Representative Patterson to discuss the proposed rules. Rep. Patterson indicated he was speaking with some of his colleagues about the negative aspects of the rules as well.

Rep. Patterson and Senator Cafaro attended a meeting in Hambden Township recently. Mr. Weisdack was also asked to attend. The proposed sewage rules were discussed among many other topics. Senator Cafaro, indicated that the rules may become effective in August 2014.

Mr. Weisdack stated he would like to schedule a couple workshops with the Board to discuss the sewage rules and what the best manner would be to proceed.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and types of sewage disposal permits issued to date.

b. General Information

Mr. Weisdack stated that in addition to the sewage article, there was an article also in the Maple Leaf regarding immunizations and vaccinations.

An area within Ashtabula County has been identified as having a large amount of black legged ticks. This means that there may be an increase of Lyme disease in the area. Due to budget cuts, the Ohio Department of Health has eliminated the tick program, so we no longer have a place to send ticks for identification. Mr. Weisdack can identify the different types of ticks, but he is not an entomologist. Mr. Weisdack has asked Mr. Tusick to work with Ashtabula County to identify a possible facility that can test ticks.

VI. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Due to our rating last year, our annual Strategic National Stockpile Assessment will be conducted electronically. Only the areas that showed room for improvement will be addressed.

Mr. Mix reported that the health district staff are working with the Department of Emergency Services to update the hazard plans.

b. Disease Surveillance

Flu activity for January 2014 has leveled off both locally and statewide.

c. Nursing Services

During the month of January, the nursing staff provided one Amish Well Child Clinic, five children and adolescent immunization clinics, four Friday Morning Adult clinics and four Senior Center clinics. That included physician visits for 16 children, 253 vaccinations given to 73 children, 18 adult immunizations, 30 flu vaccinations, 11 TB tests and 16 blood pressure screenings. The nurses also provided 30 vision screenings that resulted in providing glasses for 19 children. There were nine newborn and three BCMH home visits as well. Thirty communicable disease investigations were conducted.

We are continuing to gather client insurance information at our vaccine clinics in order to meet the requirements with VaxCare.

The Board was asked to approve the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with ODH for the Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. This allows ODH to monitor and provide services on our behalf. This program builds healthy homes awareness by educating housing and health professionals and providing primary prevention programs across the state. Lead poisoning is the greatest environmental threat to children in Ohio.

d. WIC

The WIC caseload for January was 779. This is a 1.2% decrease. Weather continues to cause the decrease, but the rates have also decreased across the state of Ohio.

e. Administration

The Board was asked to approve the payment of finance charges to NeoPost. These normally are not allowed to be paid under the ORC unless the Board approves the payment. These charges were assessed due to the three-week period when one year is closed out and the next year is opened. No bills can be paid during that time.

The Board was asked to approve the transfer of funds from the Sewage Fund to a newly established environmental health fund. This will isolate For Sale of Property funds from Sewage funds which we expect to become a state-mandated program in the near future.

f. Accreditation

The Strategic Planning Committee has begun meeting to create a three to five year plan as part of the

accreditation preparation. Two Board members will be invited once a plan has been drafted and the review process begins.

VII. Old Business

a. Budget Workshop

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the 2015 Preliminary Geauga County Health District budget with the Board. He explained how funds need to be kept separate due to auditing procedures for state mandated sewage program.

Mr. Weisdack stated that our vehicle fleet is aging. He is anticipating purchasing several vehicles this year. He also stated that we may need to hire another sanitarian.

Mr. Weisdack stated that for 2015, there will be no inside assessments to the political subdivisions.

VIII. Executive Session

Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 7:28 pm to discuss pending litigation. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes. The meeting reconvened at 7:31 pm. Mrs. Livers stated no action would be taken as a result of Executive Session.

IX. New Business

Mr. Gragg moved 2.14-a to approve the 2015 Preliminary Geauga County Health District budget as presented. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 2.14-b to approve the one-time payment to NeoPost for finance charges in an amount not to exceed \$100.00. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 2.14-c to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Department of Health for the Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 2.14-d to acknowledge the hiring of Frank Varga, S. I.T. effective February 10, 2014 at a rate of \$15.50 per hour with a \$.50 increase per hour upon successful completion of 120 day probationary period. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 2.14-e to approve the transfer from 6023- Sewage Treatment Fund to a separate For Sale of Property fund in an amount not to exceed \$217,200.00. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 2.14-f to approve the 2014 appropriations for the For Sale of Property fund not to exceed \$144,000.00. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn the meeting.**
Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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