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, and Mrs. Christina Livers. Ms. Melanie Eppich and Dr. Janet O’Hara were not present.

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

Others present: There were three others present.

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 15, 2010 regular Board of Health meeting. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/ Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses November 8, 2010 to December 14, 2010. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

There was recently a skunk that was found in Lake County tested for Rabies. The results were positive for the raccoon strain rabies. Mr. Weisdack stressed being pro-active to be safe from exposure. Ohio has 45 confirmed cases of rabies so far in 2010. There were 41 bats, 2 raccoons and 2 skunks confirmed as having rabies.

Mr. Weisdack stated that there does not seem to be any problems with the 2010 budget.

Mr. Weisdack provided a report of sewage permits issued so far this year. There were nine sewage permits for new homes so far in November. He stated that he was delightfully pleased to say that the proposed sewage budget for 2010 will be met.

Mr. Weisdack had previously spoken with Senator Grendell about the appeals panel that must be developed as a result of the new sewage rules. He stated that he will be contacting with Senator Grendell on this issue and others.

a. Sewage Rules Update
Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and type of sewage system permits issued so far for 2010 with the Board. Mr. Weisdack stated he estimated $350,000.00 in revenue for permits for 2010 and the actual number will be approximately $360,000.00. Therefore, the expenses for 2010 will end up being less than had been anticipated. Mr. Weisdack stated that if the anticipated retirements do not come about as promised, he would have to look at the budget and make some unpleasant adjustments.

Mr. Weisdack reported that there will be more ARRA funding for homeowners to apply for to repair or replace their septic systems. This funding was offered before, but there was a strict timeline involved and a lot of owners could not meet it. This funding will most likely be available through Community Development. They will handle the applications and determine which homeowners will be eligible.

As part of the new sewage law, a public health nuisance can be defined as a system which has a missing component, has an incorrect setting or mechanical failure, or a blockage which causes a backup of the sewage system within a home. This means that if there is a rental home and the system is backing up into the house, once notified, the health district must deem it a nuisance and order the property owner to perform repairs. This would apply even if the renter has not paid the rent to the property owner for months. The health districts would require the homeowner to spend money on a home that he is not receiving the rent for. Mr. Weisdack stated that he is working on one of those cases now. The health district has never addressed sewage problems within the homes before. The State has indicated that these cases must be addressed by the local health districts immediately. If the property owner does not make the repairs, the health district would have to pay to make the repairs. Mrs. Livers stated that she feels that the owner should be informed of the problem and they are expected to repair it and not use health district funds to repair. This is an individual health hazard, not a public health hazard. The rest of the Board agreed. Mr. Weisdack expects there to be more of these types of cases.

VI. Variance
   a. Loze Excavating/Harold Hall

Chris Loze 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 Chris Loze in behalf of Harold Hall for the property located at 14787 Madison Rd., Middlefield 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. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

VII. Administrative Hearings
   a. Apartment 4 Units/Randy Perotti, 8490 Kinsman Rd. LLC, James Setele’s Quality, and Stables of E. Claridon/Mark Fuerst

None of the above mentioned were 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

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 owners of these properties have failed to make payment for the operational/inspection certificate for their Semi-Public Sewage Disposal System for the 2010-2011 certificate year. Discussion followed.

Mr. Goergen moved that a code violation exists at the properties owned by Apartment 4 Units/Randy Perotti, 6709 Madison Rd., Thompson Twp., 8490 Kinsman Rd. LLC, 8490 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp., James Setele’s Quality, 12535 GAR Hwy., Hambden Twp., and Stables of E. Claridon/Mark Fuerst 12640 Mayfield Rd., Claridon Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that Apartment 4 Units/Randy Perotti, 6709 Madison Rd., Thompson Twp., 8490 Kinsman Rd. LLC, 8490 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp., James Setele’s Quality, 12535 GAR Hwy., Hambden Twp., and Stables of E. Claridon/Mark Fuerst 12640 Mayfield Rd., Claridon Twp. be required to make application and pay for the annual permit 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. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

b. James Shiozawa, Mr. & Mrs. William Collins, , Mr. & Mrs. Maksmiljan Ramsak, and Mr. & Mrs. Schrock

None of the above mentioned 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 properties owned by James Shiozawa, 8954 Cedar Rd., Chester Twp., Mr. & Mrs. William Collins, 18385 Grand River Dr., Parkman Twp., Phyllis Paulitsch, 18410 Munn Rd., Auburn Twp., Mr. & Mrs. Maksmiljan Ramsak, 7450 Paddock Dr., Chester Twp., and Mr. & Mrs. Schrock, 16730 Tavern Rd., Troy 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.
Mr. Goergen moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by James Shiozawa, 8954 Cedar Rd., Chester Twp., Mr. & Mrs. William Collins, 18385 Grand River Dr., Parkman Twp., Mr. & Mrs. Maksmiljan Ramsak, 7450 Paddock Dr., Chester Twp., and Mr. & Mrs. Schrock, 16730 Tavern Rd., Troy Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that James Shiozawa, 8954 Cedar Rd., Chester Twp., Mr. & Mrs. William Collins, 18385 Grand River Dr., Parkman Twp., Mr. & Mrs. Maksmiljan Ramsak, 7450 Paddock Dr., Chester Twp., and Mr. & Mrs. Schrock, 16730 Tavern Rd., Troy 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. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

c. Phyllis Paulitsch

David Paulitsch was present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. 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 Phyllis Paulitsch, 18410 Munn Rd., Auburn Twp. This case is 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.

Mr. Paulitsch indicated that they are intending to install a new system but does not have the funding to do so.

Mr. Goergen moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Phyllis Paulitsch, 18410 Munn Rd., Auburn Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that Phyllis Paulitsch, 18410 Munn Rd., Auburn Twp. be required to install a new sewage disposal system by July 1, 2011. Failure to follow these orders will result in referral to the prosecutor’s office for legal action. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mix reported that Geauga County is eligible for an additional $67,755.00 of funds under the 2011 Supplemental PHER grant. This money will be used to address the improvement plan identified in the H1N1 after action report.

The Board was asked to approve the 2011 PHER budget. Approximately $63,000.00 will be used for salaries. The funds will also be used for training, recruitment and to improve epidemiological capacity of the department and improved communication with the public during emergencies.
The Board was also asked to approve the Cities Readiness Initiative grant (CRI) with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for $13,332. This funding will be used for salaries, training and supplies.

a. Nursing

Mr. Mix stated that he and Mr. Weisdack held second interviews for the Nursing Director position. After consideration, the position was offered to Christine Pintchuk, RN. Mrs. Pintchuk was assistant director at the Lake County MR/DD where she developed programs at the Deepwood Residential facility.

The Board was asked to approve a revised Organization Chart which reorganizes the nursing division.

Mr. Mix reported that he attended two statewide health assessment steering committee meetings. They finalized the indicators that will be used in the state health assessment. The project has been handed over to the epidemiologists at ODH to begin development of the draft report. Another meeting will be held in January 2011 to discuss the progress of the project.

In addition to an emphasis on community health assessments, any effort to improve the operation of the health district will also require an assessment of the core competencies of our staff to perform important public health work. The Ohio State University Center for Public Health Practice has offered us the opportunity to conduct a workforce training needs assessment of our staff. After discussion, Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Mix agreed to participate in the free assessment.

In January, each staff member will complete a 30 minute online survey that asks questions about their ability and training to perform certain public health functions. The assessment is based on the Council on Linkages Core Competencies for public health workers. It was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Foundation. It is based on the Ten Essential Service of Public Health. Staff members will be broken into three tiers for evaluation. Eight categories will be measured. We will receive a report with recommendations for staff training needs. We are hopeful that additional training opportunities will be made available on ODH’s statewide online training program. Mr. Mix stated that he sees this as another important step in the accreditation process, alongside the community health assessment.

c. WIC

The WIC caseload continues to increase. The November caseload was 977 which is a five client increase over last month.

Our breastfeeding coordinator has been working closely with our peer helper to get training and develop the program. This program allows WIC clients to received telephone and face-to-face breast feeding support whenever it is needed.

d. Health Education

There was no report for Health Education.

IX. Old Business

There was no old business.

X. Executive Session
There was no reason to have executive session. The Board took a five minute break.

XI. New Business

Mr. Goergen moved 12.10-a to acknowledge the hiring of Chris Pintchuk, RN as Nursing Director effective January 3, 2011 at a rate of $22.50/hr with a $.50 increase upon successful completion of the 120 day probationary period. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 12.10-b to approve the revised Geauga County Health District organization chart dated December 7, 2010. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 12.10-c to approve the PHER GY2011 budget in an amount not to exceed $67,755.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 12.10-d to approve the CRI GY2011 Budget in an amount not to exceed $13,332.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

XII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Goergen 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