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

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

Others present: There were no 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 October 17, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting with a correction in Section IX that removes Ms. Eppich’s name and inserts Mrs. Livers’ name. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, abstain; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

The Board tabled the minutes for the November 14, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting.

IV. Current Expenses/ Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses November 9, 2011 to December 12, 2011. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that there has not been much happening with the sewage rules due to the holidays. There is still discussion being held regarding whether the Mancel or Tyler table will be used.

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

b. General Information

Mr. Weisdack reported that it appears that the 2011 budget is in good condition and he does not anticipate any problems.

The year-end inspections are being completed. Mr. Weisdack reported that he has received the resignation of Herb Shubick who was hired as a temporary employee for six months to help with the inspections. Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Tusick discussed the situation and decided there was not a need for another sanitarian at this time.
The State recently had a site visit at the health district and found some inadequacies in the grants. Since then, the Ohio Department of Health has reviewed and accepted all our responses and has removed all the non-compliance items.

Mr. Weisdack stated he made an adjustment in the placement of personnel and moved one of the environmental health secretaries to personal health services. This will provide more coverage when the other secretaries are off.

Mr. Weisdack asked the Board if they would allow him to give the staff a half day off on Friday, December 23, 2011. The Board agreed.

1. HDAC Meeting

There was a large turnout at the recent HDAC meeting. This meeting was held to appoint a new HDAC president and secretary. Jan Blair, Newbury Township Trustee was appointed as president. Mr. Weisdack stated that he would be setting a schedule with Ms. Blair for the 2013 Geauga County Health District budget approval.

Mr. Weisdack asked Ms. Eppich if she was considering running for the Board of Health. Ms. Eppich indicated she would not be seeking reappointment. Someone from a state mandated program must hold this position on the Board.

VI. Administrative Hearings

a. Daniel Emerson; Kymberli Wanat; Robert McDougall; Frank Harding; Elisha Stevens; and Douglas King

None of the above mentioned 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 by Daniel Emerson, 11403 Auburn Rd., Munson Twp.; Kymberli Wanat, 13411 Glen Hill Ln., Chester Twp.; Robert McDougall, 14652 Old State Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Frank Harding, 11750 Sperry Rd., Chester Twp.; Elisha Stevens, 14768 Summit Dr., Newbury Twp.; and Douglas King, 7822 Washington St., Bainbridge 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 properties owned by Daniel Emerson, 11403 Auburn Rd., Munson Twp.; Kymberli Wanat, 13411 Glen Hill Ln., Chester Twp.; Robert McDougall, 14652 Old State Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Frank Harding, 11750 Sperry Rd., Chester Twp.; Elisha Stevens, 14768 Summit Dr., Newbury Twp.; and Douglas King, 7822 Washington St., Bainbridge Twp. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that Daniel Emerson, 11403 Auburn Rd., Munson Twp.; Kymberli Wanat, 13411 Glen Hill Ln., Chester Twp.; Robert McDougall, 14652 Old State Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Frank Harding, 11750 Sperry Rd., Chester Twp.; Elisha Stevens, 14768 Summit Dr., Newbury Twp.; and Douglas King, 7822 Washington St., Bainbridge 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. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

b. Chagrin Valley Limousine; Kiwanis Lake Community; Blue Moon Stables; and George Yopko
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 Chagrin Valley Limousine, 9821 E. Washington St., Auburn Twp.; Kiwanis Lake Community, 14685 View Dr., Newbury Twp.; Blue Moon Stables, 8782 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp.; and George Yopko, 11095 Chardon 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 owners of these properties have 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 Chagrin Valley Limousine, 9821 E. Washington St., Auburn Twp.; Kiwanis Lake Community, 14685 View Dr., Newbury Twp.; Blue Moon Stables, 8782 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp.; and George Yopko, 11095 Chardon Rd., Chardon Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved that Chagrin Valley Limousine, 9821 E. Washington St., Auburn Twp.; Kiwanis Lake Community, 14685 View Dr., Newbury Twp.; Blue Moon Stables, 8782 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp.; and George Yopko, 11095 Chardon 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. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

c. Windstream; John & Stephanie Sutter; Midwest Land Partners; Salem Jaffal/Marathon Mini Mart; Michael Lyons; and Shandor Gardens

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 Windstream, 10968 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; John & Stephanie Sutter, 10655 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; Midwest Land Partners, 10986 Washington St., Auburn Twp.; Salem Jaffal/Marathon Mini Mart, 12410 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; Michael Lyons, 17447 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield Twp.; and Shandor Gardens, 13468 Main Market Rd., Troy Twp.

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The owners of these properties have 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 Windstream, 10968 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; John & Stephanie Sutter, 10655 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; Midwest Land Partners, 10986 Washington St., Auburn Twp.; Salem Jaffal/Marathon Mini Mart, 12410 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; Michael Lyons, 17447 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield Twp.; and Shandor Gardens, 13468 Main Market Rd., Troy Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved that Windstream, 10968 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; John & Stephanie Sutter, 10655 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; Midwest Land Partners, 10986 Washington St., Auburn Twp.; Salem Jaffal/Marathon Mini Mart, 12410 Kinsman Rd., Newbury Twp.; Michael Lyons, 17447 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield Twp.; and Shandor Gardens, 13468 Main Market Rd., Troy Twp. be required to pay 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. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

VII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff is preparing for the first CDC assessment of Strategic National Stockpile. Past assessments have been conducted by ODH. In a recent article on the most prepared and unprepared cities in the United States, Cleveland was not ranked high or low.

The Board was asked to approve the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) budget for $15,095. This is a 13% increase over 2011 due to a growth in population in Geauga County.

The Board was asked to approve a contract with Cuyahoga County Board of Health to conduct CRI activities in Geauga County. The activities include participating in the SNS local technical assessment, maintaining a score of 79% or better, developing plans to provide oral medications during a public health emergency, conducting SNS drills and submitting reports, and integrating with the City of Cleveland and NE Ohio region.

The Board was asked to approve the Regional Health District Mutual Aid MOU. This is a renewal of a contract already in place. This MOU is with all local health departments in NE Ohio that allows sharing resources during emergencies.

b. Nursing Services

The 2011 flu activity is down statewide. We have had few reports of flu activity in Geauga. To date, we have administered 460 adult vaccines under our contract with VaxCare and 229 children's vaccines under our Vaccines for Children contract with ODH. In addition, we provided 65 vaccines for people either on Medicaid or unable to pay.

The nurses have begun the process of immunizing 70 employees of Metzenbaum with HepB vaccine, which is a three part series.

Mr. Mix reported that we are working with KSU Geauga to provide a learning environment for approximately 25 BSN nursing students this spring. These students will visit the office to get a broad introduction to public health. Later, the students will visit clinics to see the front line work of public health.

More children are being seen at the Amish Well Child clinics. The clinics are held twice a month and allow us to see children up to two-years of age. In the past, limited resources prohibited us from seeing children after their first birthday, except for follow-up to high lead levels in blood.
The Board was asked to approve the IAP FY2012 budget for $36,691.00. This is a 17% decrease from 2011. The cuts reflect decreases in available dollars under the HHS budget.

c. WIC

The November caseload was 867. This is because many of the children have been pushed into Medicaid by the government.

Mr. Mix reported that we are still awaiting a final decision on budget cuts for WIC. We have been tentatively notified of a possible 3% cut.

d. Community Health Assessments

Random mailed surveys to adults and parents have yielded enough responses to be statistically significant, allowing us to generalize the findings to the population. The in-school survey was delayed slightly, but was completed the week of December 12, 2011. It also has enough participation to generalize to the population.

Mr. Mix stated that an assessment was conducted of the student body at KSU Geauga. These results will not be generalized to any population but will provide a snapshot of the health of the students.

Because of the delay in the school survey, the draft report has been pushed back until February 2012. At that time, all planning partners will be assembled to review the draft and make suggestions for the final form. The final report will be delivered in March or April 2012. That will kick off the next stage of the assessment process, identifying priorities and developing an improvement plan.

Mr. Mix reported that his is still part of the State Health Assessment committee. The committee’s final report is being finalized.

Over the past two weeks, the committee met in Columbus to establish the priorities for Ohio for the next few years. The development of a health improvement plan based on those priorities has begun. This will involve identifying those agencies and committees already working on the issues and aligning the findings of the state health assessment with their work and priorities.

VIII. Old Business

a. Injection Well

Mr. Weisdack shared some of his personal experiences regarding the gas well drilling near his property. He stated that he would continue to help the residents of Geauga County as much as he can within his authority.

IX. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss pending legal cases. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes. The meeting reconvened at 8:31 pm.

X. New Business

The following motion was made as a result of the discussion during Executive Session: Mrs. Livers moved that based on the Board of Health’s concern for the economic well being of Geauga County, that this Board approve the payment of up to $2,500.00 for a nuisance settlement in case CV-10-739293. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.
Mr. Goergen moved 12.11-a to approve the Regional Health District Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding with Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cleveland Health Dept., Ashtabula County Health Dept., Ashtabula City Health Dept., Conneaut City Health Dept., Elyria City Health Dept., Lorain County Health District, Lorain City Health Dept., Lake County Health District, and City of Shaker Heights Health Dept. to share resources during emergencies. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 12.11-b to approve the 2012 IAP Budget in an amount not to exceed $36,691.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 12.11-c to approve the CRI Contract with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, August 10, 2011 through August 9, 2012. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 12.11-d to approve the 2012 CRI Budget in an amount not to exceed $15,095.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

XI. Other Business

The prosecutor’s office has determined that we could not enter into a contract for health services with the City of Solon. The Board asked if they could get a written opinion from the prosecutor’s office. Mr. Weisdack said he would ask.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the Atrium of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio. Mr. Weisdack explained that some of the 2012 meetings would have to be held in the Atrium due to the meeting room already being reserved. He asked the Board to inform him as soon as possible if they would like to change any of the dates of the meetings.

XIII. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

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