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 arrived at 7:10 pm during the approval of the June 20, 2011 minutes.

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

Others present: There was no one else 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 May 16, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting with the corrections that Mrs. Livers provided. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. The corrections were grammatical in nature and did not change the content of the minutes. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, abstain; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the minutes for the June 20, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting with the corrections that Mrs. Livers provided. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. The corrections were grammatical in nature and did not change the content of the minutes. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, abstain; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, abstain.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the Current Expenses June 15, 2011 to July 13, 2011. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that he attended a meeting recently in which the health commissioners from Carroll County, Columbiana County and Ashtabula County were also in attendance. The group came to the conclusion that the State will not be able to implement the proposed rules by January 1, 2012. The State feels they will not be able to implement the new rules until January 1, 2013. The Senate asked for ODH to give them a six month update of the newly proposed sewage rules being developed, however so far ODH has not done that.

The proposed rules are becoming more and more complicated. There appears to be some internal conflict at the State level as well.

b. General Information
The ODH Rabies program has experienced funding cuts. Previously, local health districts that were in the outbreak area were permitted to ship specimens to the ODH lab free of charge. ODH has informed all local health districts they will now be responsible to cover the shipping fees at a cost of $22.00 for each specimen submitted.

Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Tusick attended a meeting at Geauga County Community Development regarding obtaining grant money pertaining to residential sewage systems. This money would be available to qualified homeowners with malfunctioning sewage systems to install new sewage disposal systems. Community Development had asked for $363,000.00 in funding but was awarded $160,000.00. They will administer the program regarding qualification criteria.

VI. Administrative Hearings

a. Byron Childs; Raymond & Nicole Cook; Mr. Fitzenrider & Ms. Valentyn; Kristi Rossbach; Nick Degeorge & Lea Maas; Elmer & Rhoda Weaver; Arlene Albrect; Liese Toohig & Jasen Miller; and Jordan Wright.

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 Byron Childs, 17290 Amblaire Rd., Parkman Twp., Raymond & Nicole Cook, 12080 Clark Rd., Chardon Twp., Mr. Fitzenrider & Ms. Valentyn, 11673 County Line Rd., Chester Twp., Kristi Rossbach, 12212 Fox Run Dr., Chester Twp., Nick Degeorge & Lea Maas, 8543 Ravenna Rd., Chardon Twp., Elmer & Rhoda Weaver, 15155 Tavern Rd., Burton Twp., Arlene Albrect, 12510 Taylor Wells Rd., Claridon Twp., Liese Toohig & Jasen Miller, 14180 View Dr., Newbury Twp., Jordan Wright, 11104 Walnut Ridge Rd., Chester 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.

Mrs. Livers moved that a code violation exists on the properties owned by Byron Childs, 17290 Amblaire Rd., Parkman Twp., Raymond & Nicole Cook, 12080 Clark Rd., Chardon Twp., Mr. Fitzenrider & Ms. Valentyn, 11673 County Line Rd., Chester Twp., Kristi Rossbach, 12212 Fox Run Dr., Chester Twp., Nick Degeorge & Lea Maas, 8543 Ravenna Rd., Chardon Twp., Elmer & Rhoda Weaver, 15155 Tavern Rd., Burton Twp., Arlene Albrect, 12510 Taylor Wells Rd., Claridon Twp., Liese Toohig & Jasen Miller, 14180 View Dr., Newbury Twp., Jordan Wright, 11104 Walnut Ridge Rd., Chester Twp. 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.

Ms. Eppich moved that Byron Childs, 17290 Amblaire Rd., Parkman Twp., Raymond & Nicole Cook, 12080 Clark Rd., Chardon Twp., Mr. Fitzenrider & Ms. Valentyn, 11673 County Line Rd., Chester Twp., Kristi Rossbach, 12212 Fox Run Dr., Chester Twp., Nick Degeorge & Lea Maas, 8543 Ravenna Rd., Chardon Twp., Elmer & Rhoda Weaver, 15155 Tavern Rd., Burton Twp., Arlene Albrect, 12510 Taylor Wells Rd., Claridon Twp., Liese Toohig & Jasen Miller, 14180 View Dr., Newbury Twp., Jordan Wright, 11104 Walnut Ridge Rd., Chester 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; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

VII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

ODH has informed the local health districts that Ohio will receive 18% ($3,000,000.00) less in emergency preparedness funding for 2012. Approximately $2,100,000.00 will be passed down as cuts to the local health
districts and the rest will be absorbed by ODH. Representatives from the various health districts working with ODH have made several recommendations for reducing funds. The most recent information indicates an 18% cut ($19,750.00) to our PHEP award. Cuts to other health districts were as much as 29%.

In addition, CRI funding is expected to be cut by 30% overall. There has been some discussion that Geauga County Health District funding may remain at 2011 levels due to the increase in population based on the 2010 Census. Mr. Weisdack, Mr. Mix, and Jay Becker will be discussing and adjusting the PHEP and CRI budgets and will provide information to the Board at the August meeting.

b. Nursing

The nursing director is in the process of updating the nursing contracts as well as contracts with local universities. This will provide a learning environment for students.

We received a notice of award for full funding of $66,000.00 for the CFHS Amish Well Child grant. We are very grateful to have received the full award. Nearly 90% of departments were cut and some were denied funding completely. This grant is shifting from an emphasis on primary care to an emphasis on health education.

c. WIC

The June caseload was 899.

The Board was asked to approve the 2012GY WIC budget for $221,134.00.

d. Community Health Assessments

Mr. Mix reported that full funding is available to conduct all three assessments. This would not have been possible without all of the public and private partners. Mr. Mix reported that currently the plan is to determine how to plan the assessment of Kent State University Geauga and also how to survey Amish schools.

e. Workforce Development

Mr. Mix had nothing to report.

f. Continuous Improvement Project

Mr. Mix reported that the project is to bring all health district policies, procedures, plans and protocols to a standard.

As part of this project, we will also be creating missing policies identified in the PHAB standards. During our recent audit, the Ohio State Auditor requested to see our credit card policy. At that time, we did not have a written policy. One has been now been drafted and approved by the prosecutor’s office. The Board was asked to adopt the policy.

VIII. Old Business

a. Injection Well Chemical Water Sampling

Mr. Weisdack reported there is to be a meeting with Senator Grendell on July 21, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the Hambden Town Hall. Mr. Weisdack will be providing an update on the cancer review and water testing project.

Letters were mailed to 28 homeowners offering the free chemical water samples. Only nine homeowners responded to the letters. Testing will begin next week. Mr. Weisdack anticipates everything will be completed by the next Board of Health meeting.

b. Resolution 1-2011 -Copy Fee Proposed Decrease 3rd and Final Reading
Ms. Eppich moved 7.11-a to adopt resolution 1-2011 authorizing the Health Commissioner to decrease the copy fee from $.10 to $.05 per copy. This fee change will become effective July 31, 2011. 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.

c. Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy Credit Card Policy.

Ms. Eppich moved 7.11-b to adopt Section F-Conduct, Subsection 27 – Credit Card Policy to the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy as amended. 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. Mrs. Livers stated that the content of the policy was put together very well.

IX. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:25 pm to discuss pending legal cases, Health Commissioner’s Evaluation and Personnel. 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. The meeting reconvened at 9:06 pm.

The Board made the following motion based on the discussion during Executive Session: Mrs. Livers moved to accept and adopt the health commissioner’s evaluation as amended. Dr. O’Hara 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.

The Board asked Mr. Weisdack to come with up a long range plan for the retiring of personnel. Mr. Weisdack stated he doesn’t anticipate that anyone will be retiring in the near future. There are many changes being discussed within the PERS system. The PERS changes should be clearly outlined by January 2012 and there will be a five year window of time where people can retire before the new changes are implemented. Mr. Weisdack stated that even his own retirement plans are undecided because of those proposed changes.

He stated he has one staff member that would like to retire and be rehired. Another staff member has stated that they would have retired long before, but cannot afford to.

Mr. Weisdack stated that once he retires he would like to see Mr. Mix take his place. Mr. Weisdack stated that he would like the health district to remain the same when he leaves as when he came in.

The Board stated that the reason they would like this plan so that the health district will be covered. Mr. Weisdack stated that he would come up with a plan to address the staff retirement situation.

Mrs. Livers moved per the contract agreement with Mr. Weisdack that the Board give a 3% raise. 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 that due to the economic situation within the department he respectfully declines the raise offered.

X. New Business

A contract was entered into with Garrison Enterprises to provide web-based software for the Geauga County Health District five years ago. Many promises have been made and timelines have not been met. After five years, we still do not have a working product. Garrison has had a high turnover regarding personnel. We have had several different project managers. Mr. Weisdack stated that the prosecutor’s office has been consulted on all of these issues. Letters have been sent to Garrison stating the disappointment in their service.

The contract expires on August 31, 2011. Mr. Weisdack recommends that the contract not be renewed with Garrison Enterprises. The Board agreed that the contract should not be renewed.

Mr. Goergen moved 7.11-c to approve the contract with Notre Dame College which will allow nursing students to attend our clinics. 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.
Mrs. Livers moved 7.11-d to approve the payment to Auditor of State in the amount of $3,271.60. 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.

Ms. Eppich moved 7.11-e to approve the WIC Budget GY2012 in an amount not to exceed $221,134.00. 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.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, August 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Benenati adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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