Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2011, 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 7:05 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Mr. Timothy Goergen, Ms. Melanie Eppich, Mrs. Christina Livers, 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: No one else was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the August 15, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting. 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.

IV. Current Expenses/ Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses August 10, 2011 to September 6, 2011. 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.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that Senator Grendell has been appointed as Geauga County Juvenile Court Judge. Another person will be named to fill his term as senator.

He stated that ODH is still is in discussion about perched water tables in comparison to trench, drip and mound systems. Mr. Weisdack is hopeful that someone will step into Senator Grendell’s place that will support his past work on these issues.

The Board inquired whether annual inspections were part of the rules. Mr. Weisdack indicated that annual inspections are not in the rules at this time, but that mandate may be added later when the rules are revised.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and type of sewage disposal permits issued to date. He stated that things are at status quo at this point. Some health commissioners have indicated they are in a bad situation financially.

b. Ohio Department of Agriculture Food Survey Results
We recently had our survey from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. They review the files and observe the food inspectors doing their inspections. We have received the results of the survey, which indicate the Geauga County Health District is on the approved list. There are only two items that need action. A plan is being developed to take care of those items.

c. Lot Evaluation Approvals

Mr. Weisdack read a policy that is being proposed regarding the approval of older lot evaluations and their expiration dates. This policy would waive the one-year expiration date on all lot evaluations that were approved by the Geauga County Health District for onsite sewage treatment systems from April 8, 1985 to September 17, 2010. The waiver would include lot evaluation approvals that were based on test holes provided such approvals are found to be acceptable by a registered soil professional. This does not waive the re-inspection fee or the requirement to have a re-inspection of the lot completed. The prosecutor’s office has indicated that as long as the Board of Health agreed with the policy, it does not have to be in the form of a resolution and printed in the newspaper. The Board agreed with this policy.

d. General Information

Mr. Weisdack reported he has had several complaints from property owners who want to put in off-lot discharging systems when they have room for an on-lot sewage system. The installers are pushing more for off-lots because it allows them to make more money. Mr. Weisdack stated that more off-lot systems would most likely give way to sanitary sewers. He wanted the Board to be aware of the complaints in case they were contacted.

VI. Administrative Hearings

a. Hamid Namaky; Ian O’Neill; William Fugman; Tracy Onderdonk; William Miller; Danny J. Miller; Aaron & Rebecca Miller; William Hodge; Andrew Hodgson; Viktor, Mareno & Milena Faraguna; and Paul & Betty Perelman

None of the above mentioned were present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.


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 Hamid Namaky, 11470 Champlain Tr., Auburn Twp.; Ian O’Neill, 15861 Claridon Troy Rd., Burton Twp.; William Fugman, 9989 Edward Ln., Auburn Twp.; Tracy Onderdonk, 13325
Hickory St., Chester Twp.; William Miller, 17243 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp.; Danny J. Miller, 17841 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp.; Aaron & Rebecca Miller, 16014 Newcomb Rd., Middlefield Twp.; William Hodge, 17799 Swine Creek Rd., Parkman Twp.; Andrew Hodgson, 15480 Thompson Rd., Thompson Twp.; Viktor, Mareno & Milena Faraguna, 7934 Wilson Mills Rd., Chester Twp.; and Paul & Betty Perelman, 15595 Valleyview Dr., Newbury 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

The PHEP staff is coordinating a drive-thru flu clinic that will be staffed by the MRC on September 24, 2011 here at the health district offices. We will be able to accept all Medicare plans as well as private insurance. This will be the only drive-thru clinic scheduled. The rest will be held at our Friday morning clinics. We will be visiting nursing homes and care facilities throughout the county.

b. Nursing

The 2010 national Immunization Survey results for children ages 19-35 months has been released and Ohio’s rates continue to be above the national average. In addition, the 2010 rates reflect an increase over 2009 rates.

Numerous projects affect the outcome, including Vaccine for Children, ImpactSIIS, Immunization Action Plan, MOBI, and educational efforts, which are critical pieces in this success.

c. WIC

The August caseload was 893.

Mr. Mix reported that the ODH Management Evaluation was completed this week. The consultant made a few recommendations, but overall commented that all of the previous deficiencies have been corrected. ODH praised the breastfeeding program as one of the best they have seen and heard about. They especially felt the peer helper program was a model for the potential for the program.

d. Community Health Assessments

The first of two vision sessions was recently held. The group is attempting to identify the vision of health in Geauga for a five to ten year period based on input from the public and private sector. They are also identifying the values that support the vision. Another session will be held soon.

e. Vital Statistics

Mr. Mix reviewed the fees associated with the expediting of a birth or death record. There has been an increase in the amount of expedited requests. When ODH gets a phone order, they refer it to one of the local health districts who have VitalChek. The ODH recommendation is based on service as rated in a follow-up survey and the cost of expediting. Geauga is a five star service organization based on that survey. In addition, we do not charge a fee for expediting.

Mr. Mix and Mr. Weisdack indicated that they recommend that the proposed expediting fees not be acted on any further. The Geauga County Health District would stand to lose revenue rather than increase revenue if ODH bases their referrals on the cost of a local health districts expediting fee.

f. Continuous Improvement Project
Mr. Mix reported that the AOHC, OVAT CQI report and poster have been completed. The poster will be presented at the Health Commissioner’s Fall Conference on September 20, 2011 at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Mix stated that the team is continuing to implement the project of bringing the health district policies and procedures up to standard and creating missing policies and procedures. Ultimately, this will improve our accreditation readiness by establishing approximately six missing policies and performing the CQI process, which we need to complete twice every three years.

VIII. Old Business

a. Injection Well Chemical Water Sampling

Mr. Weisdack reported that eighteen people have contacted the office about the water sampling and we have thirteen of those scheduled. The review of cancer cases in that area is completed. Once the sampling has been done, a meeting will be held at Hamden Township Hall to discuss it.

b. Vital Statistics proposed credit card handling fee (2nd Reading)

The Board decided not to move forward with this fee.

c. Vital Statistics proposed expediting handling fee (2nd Reading)

The Board decided not to move forward with this fee.

d. Garrison Enterprises Contract

On September 1, 2011, the prosecutor’s office sent a letter to Garrison Enterprises terminating the contract.

IX. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:45 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. The meeting reconvened at 9:05 pm.

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

X. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 9.11-c to approve the BOH Funds Transfer as follows: Transfer $1,000.00 from Supplies, $5,500.00 from Vaccine and $3,500.00 from Travel and transfer $7,000.00 to Other Expense and $3,000.00 to Equipment/Maintenance. 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. Weisdack reported that he received the final State Audit findings. There were no non-compliance items. Mr. Weisdack stated Mrs. Gerzeny has done an excellent job with our books.

Mrs. Livers moved 9.11-d to approve the purchase of a copier from Ace Business Solutions in an amount not to exceed $11,112.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. This copier would replace the one in Environmental Health. The current copier was purchased in 2006 and parts are becoming scarce. The new copier will cost the health district less per month after the initial purchase because of the cost per page. The service contract covers all service, parts, toner, and labor. The old copier would go to the county auction at a reserve price. 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, October 17, 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, Mrs. Livers adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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