Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Geauga County Health District Office
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

Mr. Timothy Goergen, President Pro-Tempore, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:03 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, Dr. O’Hara and Mr. David Gragg were present. Mrs. Christina Livers and Mr. J. David Benenati were not present.

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

Others present: Chris Loze, Jeff & Mary Lou Carver, Kathy Bender, Albert Miller, Max Kucera, M. Martin, Greg Concilla, Sarah & Marcella Kramer, Brian Woltram, Lilly Makee, Noah Andes, Andrew Todaw, and Irene McMann.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2013 regular Board of Health meeting as presented. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, 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, June 13, 2013 to July 10, 2013. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

V. Variances

a. Loze Excavating/Jeff Carver

Chris Loze and Jeff Carver were present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Goergen and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this was a variance request by Loze Excavating in behalf of Jeff Carver for the property located at 13739 GAR Hwy., Hambden Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-10(D) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which states: “Lots with a 0-2% slope cannot install a leaching trench system.” (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case.) Discussion followed.

Dr. O’Hara moved to approve the variance request by Loze Excavating in behalf of Jeff Carver for the property located at 13739 GAR Hwy., Hambden Twp. The variance involves section 3701-29-10(D) that lots with a 0-2% slope cannot install a leaching trench system. The installation will consist of a 2000 gallon septic tank, dosing chamber and 1200 feet of leach trench. The Infiltrator must be installed at a depth no greater than 10 inches which places it above the seasonal water table at 10 inches. Topsoil will need to be added to provide 4 inches minimum of cover. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

b. Arlene Albrecht
Arlene Albrecht was not present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again by Mr. Goergen and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a variance request by Arlene Albrecht for the property located at 12510 Taylor Wells Rd., Claridon 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 owner. 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.

Dr. O'Hara moved to approve the variance request by Arlene Albrecht for the property located at 12510 Taylor Wells Rd., Claridon 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 owner. All the sewage from the dwelling shall discharge into the system.” The system will consist of a 2000 gallon septic tank for each house and a combined 2000 feet of leach trench for the five bedrooms. There will be a curtain drain on the system. Claridon Township has approved the two homes on one lot. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

c. Albert Miller

Kathy Bender and Albert Miller were present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a variance request by Albert Miller for the property located at 17737 Mayfield Rd., Huntsburg Township. The Board of Health approved a sewage system designed from Steve Tricamo- The Potter's Company, consisting of the following: 2-1000 septic tanks followed by a 1500 gallon dosing chamber, two fields of 1200' of leach trench with a curtain drain surrounding the system and a curtain drain between each field. The pump would cycle once per hour and pump 70 gallons each time. 1200 feet of trench would be used each time the pump turns on. The pump would alternate between each field of 1200 feet of trench each time the pump kicks on. The trenches were to be installed at a depth of 2” above the seasonal water table with 6” of topsoil to cover the infiltrator pipe.

The Millers are proposing to change the design of the sewage system. Because the Board granted approval based on a specific design, the EH staff believes the Board would need to grant approval for a design in the plans.

Kathy Bender is proposing to install the following: A 2000 gallon septic tank for each residence. Both 2000 gallon septic tanks would flow into 1-500 gallon on-demand dosing chamber, which will pump into 2800’ of leach trench. There will be a curtain drain around the system and between each field. The trenches will be installed 2 inches above the seasonal water table. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case.) Discussion followed.

Mr. Gragg moved to grant the variance request by Albert Miller located at 17737 Mayfield Rd., Huntsburg Twp. This request is replacing a previous design and shall consist of a 2000 gallon septic tank for each residence. Both 2000 gallon septic tanks would flow into 1-500 gallon on-demand dosing chamber, which will pump into 2800’ of leach trench. There will be a curtain drain around the system and between each field. The trenches will be installed 2 inches above the seasonal water table. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Weisdack provided the audience with a brief history on why there are variances before the Board of Health. He also provided information on the different types of systems installed in Geauga County.

VI. Administrative Hearings

Alene Benton, Roderick Frederick, Steven & Martha Miller, Mose & Rebecca Burkholder, Epic Interiors, Robert & Martin Troyer, Robert & Karen Miller, Garrett Kokal, Samuel Paros, 7655 Mulberry Rd., Chester Twp., Kenneth Strauss, James Miller, Lester Detweiler, Roy & Arlene Yoder, Christopher & Esther Kurtz, Mark
None of the above mentioned were present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again by Mr. Goergen 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.


VII. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Update
Mr. Weisdack stated that ODH had a meeting recently to discuss what the final version of the sewage rules would be. The final version should be available within the next month or two.

b. General Information

Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Mix are interviewing for a PHS Secretary. We received many resumes for this position. The interviews for SIT/RS are also ongoing.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Staff members have been participating in many different training exercises and meetings. These are held regionally and continue to be ongoing.

The Annual Geauga County Health District MRC Appreciation Meeting was held June 20, 2013 to honor our volunteers. There were approximately 20 people in attendance who received service pins. There were several different speakers in attendance as well.

b. Nursing Services

The caseload for disease surveillance continues to average 12-14 cases per month and include a variety of different communicable diseases.

An outbreak of Campylobacter took place at an auto show in Pennsylvania. Many of the participants were from Ohio with two cases from Geauga County.

During the month of June, the nursing staff provided two Amish Well Child Clinics, 6 children and adolescent immunization clinics, 4 Friday-Morning Adult clinics, and an employee TB clinic at Metzenbaum Center. That included physician visits for 32 children, 465 vaccinations given to 125 children, 42 adult immunizations, 14 TB tests and 75 blood pressure screenings. The nurses also provided 20 vision screenings that resulted in providing glasses for 16 children. There were 4 newborn and 11 BCMH home visits as well. Fourteen communicable disease investigations were conducted in May.

c. WIC

The WIC caseload for June was 813, which is a 1.5% increase from May.

The Board was asked to approve the FY2014 WIC budget for $184,160.00. This is the same funding level as FY2013. The Ohio Department of Health WIC is confident that federal funding will exist to provide the funding for FY2014.

d. Administrative

Mr. Mix reported that the Geauga County Health District is in the midst of our bi-annual Audit conducted by the State Auditor’s office. The audit is expected to be completed this week. This is the first audit since the implementation of the New World system in October 2011. The County Auditor and Treasurer’s office have gone to extra lengths to provide additional information and documentation to assist us with this process.

IX. Old Business

Wording within HB 59 indicates that the state will cut subsidies to county government by 12.5%. Our levy will cost a homeowner 12.5% more if the health district asks for a new levy. A renewal will cost an owner of a $100,000.00 home $9.63 per year. A replacement levy would cost that same owner $10.50 per year. Mr. Weisdack stated that he did not want to cost homeowners more money. He stated that he recommends the renewal of our current .2 mill levy with a possible additional levy of .10 mill. The Board and Mr. Weisdack discussed

Dr. O’Hara moved 7.13-a to rescind resolution 5-2013 and adopt resolution 9-2013 requesting to
renew the existing .2 mill levy and add a new levy of .1 mill to the ballot for the November 5, 2013 election. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

X. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session.

XI. New Business

Mr. Gragg moved 7.13-b to approve the hiring of a secretary for the EH division within the current salary range, commensurate with experience. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Mix explained all the services that Dr. Bradley Moritz provides as the Geauga County Health District Medical Director. Mr. Gragg moved 7.13-c to approve the contract with Dr. Bradley Moritz to provide services to the Geauga County Health District as Medical Director for one year. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 7.13-d to approve the WIC FY2014 budget in an amount not to exceed $184,160.00. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Several students from West Geauga High School were present to address the Board. The group is part of an environmental team. They are requesting the Health District run water samples on the gas chromatograph as part of a school project free of charge. Mr. Gragg moved 7.13-e to approve the request from the West Geauga High School Environmental Discovery Team to waive the fee for chemical water analysis by the gas chromatograph for a school project for a maximum of 20 samples. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes. Mr. Goergen asked that a copy of the group’s report be submitted to the Geauga County Health District once it is completed.

Mr. Gragg moved 7.13-f to adopt Resolution 8-2013 honoring Donna Vaccariello for 22 years of service to the Geauga County Health District. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 7.13-g to approve the hiring of a part-time secretary for no more than 28 hours per week, within the current salary range, commensurate with experience for the WIC division. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

XII. Other Business

XIII. Meetings

Due to schedule conflicts with some members of the Board, the Regular Board of Health Meeting, will be held Monday, August 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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