I. Call to Order

Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, Mrs. Christina Livers, Pro-Tempore and Mr. David Gragg were present. Dr. O'Hara arrived at 7:10 pm during the variance presentation. Mr. J. David Benenati was not present.

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

Others present: Susan Schwartz, Elizabeth Strickler, Erwin Leffel, Thompson Twp. Trustee, and Deputy Michael Matsik.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the October 21, 2013 regular Board of Health meeting with one correction. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, October 17, 2013 to November 13, 2013. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

V. Variances

a. Susan Schwartz & Elizabeth Strickler

Susan Schwartz & Elizabeth Strickler were present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was sworn in and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Susan Schwartz & Elizabeth Strickler for the property located at 14920 Hill Dr., Russell Twp. The request involves section 3701-28-07(D) of the Private Water Well Regulations, which requires a 10-foot isolation distance from a building foundation to a well. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

Mrs. Livers moved to accept the recommendation Mr. Tusick and Environmental Services that the well will be 5-feet from the foundation of the building at 14920 Hill Dr., Russell Twp. granting the request of the variance. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

VI. Administrative Hearings

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


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 2013-2014 certificate year and/or owe a late fee. Discussion followed.


b. John Janor, Samuel & Kathryn Mullett, John Byler, & Larry McKinnon

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

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by John Janor, 10655 Holidae, Hambden Twp., Samuel & Kathryn Mullett, 17201 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield Twp., John Byler, 12940 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp., and Larry McKinnon, 19165 Mumford Rd., Troy Twp.

Section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations 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. Gragg moved that a code violation exists on the properties owned by John Janor, 10655 Holidae, Hambden Twp., Samuel & Kathryn Mullett, 17201 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield Twp., John Byler, 12940 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp., and Larry McKinnon, 19165 Mumford Rd., Troy Twp. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Dr. O’Hara moved that John Janor, 10655 Holidae, Hambden Twp., Samuel & Kathryn Mullett, 17201 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield Twp., John Byler, 12940 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp., and Larry McKinnon, 19165 Mumford 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 this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor’s office for legal action. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

c. Jeffrey Weiss

Jeffrey Weiss was not present. Deputy Mike Matsik, Geauga County Sheriff’s Department, was present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Jeffrey Weiss, 15454 Lakeshore Dr., Burton Twp.

This case is based on the failure to comply with section 3734.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. Section 3734.03 states: “Solid Waste” means such unwanted residual solid or semi-solid material as results from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and community operations, excluding earth or material from construction, mining or demolition operations, or other waste materials of the type that would normally be included in demolition debris non-toxic fly ash, spent non-toxic foundry sand, slag, and other substances that are not harmful or inimical to public health and include, but are not limited to, garbage, tires, combustible material, street dirt and debris. Solid waste does not include any material that is an infectious waste or hazardous waste.”
Mr. Weiss has been instructed to remove the solid waste from the property several times. He indicated that he would clean up the debris around the home, but has not done so.

Mr. Gragg moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Jeffrey Weiss, 15454 Lakeshore Dr., Newbury Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved that the owner be required to remove the solid waste and dispose of it in an approved manner and submit the disposal receipts to this office within 7 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor’s office for legal action. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

VII. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that he had received the second draft of the sewage rules. Comments are due by December 12, 2013. Mr. Weisdack is still working with legislators to get the rules stopped.

b. Private Water Systems Survey

We have received noticed that our Private Water System program will be audited beginning December 3, 2013. We recently completed a cost analysis on the program and our fees are well within the amount it costs us to run the program.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number of sewage disposal system permits that have been issued to date. The For Sale of Property program is keeping the staff busy. Mr. Weisdack stated that he is still looking for a sanitarian to add to the staff to help alleviate some of the workload.

c. General Information

Mr. Weisdack updated the Board on the status of the Administrative Hearing for Mr. Adams on Hosmer Rd. Mr. Weisdack has been to the site several times. Mr. Adams has been instructed what he needs to do. Mr. Weisdack stated that he would continue to work on this case.

Mr. Weisdack proposed to develop a video to put on our website to assist people with identifying the components needed to be accessible for having their For Sale of Property evaluation. We spend a lot of time on the phone explaining what components need to be accessible. This video would also explain what each component looks like. The Board stated they thought this is a good idea.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve future development of our website to include an educational component about septic systems and our For Sale of Property program. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff participated in a required Public Information Officer training for the PHEP grant and will be attending Continuity Operations Training this week. The staff is currently preparing for the next SNS assessment to be held in March 2014.

b. Disease Surveillance

Mr. Mix reported that the disease reports have been tapering off. Currently the average is 10-15 disease reports per month. Flu activity is reported as sporadic and should be increasing from now until May 2014.

c. Nursing Services
During the month of October, the nursing staff provided two Amish Well Child Clinics, 6 children and adolescent immunization clinics, four Friday-Morning Adult clinics and four Senior Center clinics. That included physician visits for 36 children, 635 vaccinations given to 224 children, 34 adult immunizations, 527 flu vaccinations, 32 TB tests and 41 blood pressure screenings. The nurses also provided 25 vision screenings that resulted in providing glasses for 19 children. There were 6 newborn and 7 BCMH home visits as well. The staff also conducted a lead screening clinic for 22 children at the Head Start program of Lake & Geauga Counties.

The medical director held one TB clinic for three latent TB cases in the county.

d. WIC

The WIC caseload for October was 826. This is a 2.5% decrease since September.

A follow-up response was received from the Ohio WIC program. All concerns raised during the onsite management evaluation which was conducted September 17-19, 2013 has been addressed and all appropriate corrective actions have been taken.

e. Administrative

The new fiscal coordinator began working on November 4, 2013. She is acclimating to the position very well.

The Board was asked to approve a revised Purchase Order Authorization limits which includes the new fiscal coordinator and to sign the Auditor’s Account Authorization form.

IX. Old Business

a. Levy Election Results

Mr. Weisdack provided information to the Board about the levy results. The renewal of the existing levy passed. The additional levy did not pass.

The additional levy funds were to be used to purchase vaccines that will no longer be provided by the Ohio Department of Health free of charge. The Ohio Department of Health was notified that our levy failed and there is a concern that the vaccines will not be able to be provided by the Geauga County Health District. ODH responded on November 14, 2013 and has indicated based on our unique population they will be providing the vaccines at no charge for the uninsured and underinsured. There are some stringent stipulations for receiving these vaccines. Mr. Weisdack gave a brief overview of the requirements.

Mr. Weisdack stated that based on this information, he does not feel we need to put the additional levy on the ballot again at this time. He will be watching very closely to assure that ODH will follow through on their promise to provide the vaccines. The Board would like a press release advising of a temporary reprieve that the levy is not needed at this time due to the Ohio Department of Health’s promise to provide the vaccine.

b. Resolution 10-2013 Honoring Levy Committee

Mrs. Livers moved 11.13-a to adopt resolution 10-2013 honoring the Levy Committee for their hard work toward the passage of the Geauga County Health District levy. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes. Mr. Weisdack expressed his gratitude to everyone on the committee.

c. Accreditation

The Ohio Public Health Partnership has a current RFP for local health departments awarding $5,000 to $15,000 each for undertaking certain accreditation related activities. The Board was asked to sign a letter of support for an application for $5,000 for developing a strategic and quality improvement plan.

d. Records Retention

Mr. Weisdack has received notification that due to many of the local health districts were unhappy with
the new records commission law. Due to that fact, the law is being changed and will come effective in February 2014. We no longer are required to have our own records commission. We may use the Geauga County’s records commission if we choose to do so. After brief discussion, the Board decided to table this topic until next month.

X. Executive Session

Executive Session was not held.

XI. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 11.13-b to acknowledge the closure of the Geauga County offices on December 24, 2013. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.13-c to approve the revised Purchase Order Authorization Limits as presented. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.13-d to acknowledge the hiring of Joclyn Matzek as fiscal coordinator effective November 4, 2013 at a rate of $17.00 per hour with a $0.50 increase upon successful completion of 120 day probation. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.13-e to sign a letter of support for application applying to the Ohio Public Health Partnership for a grant to prepare a strategic plan. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O’Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

XII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIII. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Monday, December 16, 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 adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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