I. Call to Order

Mr. 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, Mr. David Gragg and Dr. Denis Rubal were present.

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

Others present: There were nine others present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Presentation to Betty Benenati

Mr. Goergen thanked the Benenati family for coming to the meeting. He stated that Mr. Benenati had done tremendous work for the residents of Geauga County and the Geauga County Board of Health will be indebted to him as past President and for all of the special projects he was involved in as a Board member. Mr. Weisdack read Resolution 2015-5 honoring J. David Benenati to the audience.

Mr. Weisdack presented Mrs. Benenati with a plaque in appreciation of Mr. Beninati’s work. Mrs. Benenati stated that her husband loved being part of the Geauga County Board of Health.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.15-a to adopt Resolution 2015-5 in honor of J. David Benenati. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the October 19, 2015 Board of Health meeting. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

V. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, October 16, 2015 to November 12, 2015. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

VI. Variances

a. Daniel Beavers

Daniel Beavers was present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was also sworn in and stated his experience.
Mr. Tusick stated that this is a variance request by Daniel Beavers for the property located at 139 Lakeview Ln., S. Russell Village. The request involves the 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. Discussion followed.

Mr. Beavers acknowledge that if a new well needs to be drilled, the existing one must be properly abandoned.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

VII. Administrative Hearings
a. Thomas & Joyce Cole, Michael Bush, Bill & Rosemary Miller, Kevin Ditto, Ronald Kacar, Northwest Trademark Properties LLC, Joseph Gambino, Jaime Fee, Daniel & Mary Wengerd, Elmar & Tere Kruza, Raymond & Kathleen Mullet, John Byler & Marcia Yoder, Rueben & Susan Troy, Enos Byler, G & M Asset LLC, Douglas Zimperman, Eli & Sara Mullet, Paul & Edna Yoder, Jerry & Erma Byler, Mark Gingerich, Nicholas Hribar, Tina Schaeffer & Schaeffer Properties, Michael Corcoran, and Margaret Rowan


Section 3701-29-25(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations states, “An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed at time of 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. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

VIII. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules

Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Goergen explained some sewage history for a Kent State student that was in the audience. This included the For Sale of Property program and the new sewage rules and how it affects the residents.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and types of permits that have been issued so far this year with the Board. He stated that he is concerned with the number of permit issued for NPDES systems.

Mr. Weisdack plans to meet with some of the other health commissioners in December to continue the discussion of the new sewage rules.

IX. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff continues to meet with regional and local partners to develop a local Ebola response plan and local Functional Needs plan. They have also attended the regional public health meeting, regional EPI meeting and Biowatch Advisory Committee meeting in October.

b. Disease Surveillance

The disease count for October was 38, 18 of which were STD’s. Some cases which were out of the ordinary included Mumps, Ecoli and Hep A.

Jay Becker attended a Bed Bug Conference in Cleveland, which resulted in a need to develop standard operating guidelines to handle future inquiries from residents.

c. Nursing Services

During the month of October, the nursing staff provided two Amish Well Child Clinics, 6 children and adolescent immunization clinics, 4 Friday Morning Adult clinics, and 3 Senior Center clinics. Included were visits for 22 children at the well child clinics, 524 vaccinations given to 189 children, 59 adult immunizations, 87 BP and 29 TB tests. The nurses also provided vision screenings that resulted in referrals for glasses for 19 children. There were 5 maternal/ newborn visits and 2 BCMH home visits.

Our nursing director participated in the RN peer review and held the annual school and public health consortium, which includes our staff nurses and nurses from the local school districts.

The Board expressed their concern that our nursing services are still covering patients for Lake County Health District. They asked Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Mix to calculate those costs so they can be reviewed. They would like the information available for the next meeting.

d. WIC

The WIC caseload for October was 714.
Geauga WIC attended the TriCounty Breastfeeding Conference and the Lake County Breastfeeding Conference in October.

The contract peer helper has cut her hours to care for her infant child. The staff is considering contracting with another peer helper to fill the 60 hour per month void.

e. Administration

The Board was asked to approve three requests to the Geauga County Auditor to create new expense line items, create a new fund for the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Fund, and to create a new fund for the For Sale of Property Program.

The Board was asked to approve a revision to the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy Manual to clarify who is an exempt employee and to increase scheduling flexibility of an exempt employee.

f. Accreditation

The Performance Management and Quality Improvement Committee completed the PMQI plan for the department. The plan links to the agency strategic plan which calls for an implementation date of 2016. Staff will need training and the monthly reporting of the EH and PHS statistics altered to include the performance measures identified in the plan.

The Ohio Department of Health is now accredited. There are 8 local health districts who have completed accreditation. Ohio has the most accredited health departments in the United States.

X. Old Business

a. OEPA Water Pollution Control Fund

Mr. Weisdack showed the Board the guide for the new fund. It shows that the Geauga County Health District has been awarded $300,000.00 to assist the residents with replacing malfunctioning septic systems. The implementation date is set as January 6, 2016. We have never received an official award letter from OEPA.

Community Development has agreed to assist us through this process.

We recently found that the Ohio Department of Agriculture has a program to assist residents as well.

b. General Information

There were no other topics discussed.

XI. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 11.15-b to approve the revision to Section D-Classification and Compensation of the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy as presented. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 11.15-c to approve the request to the Geauga County Auditor to add the expense line item 601-Contract Services in the 6002-Board of Health fund. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 11.15-d to approve the request to the Geauga County Auditor to create a new Environmental Health Assistance Fund to administer the OEPA Water Pollution Control Fund and to create the necessary revenue and expense line items. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.15-e to approve the request to the Geauga County Auditor to create a new Environmental Health Fund to administer the For Sale of Property program and to create the necessary revenue and expense line items. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes;
Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 11.15-f to acknowledge the retirement of Helen Reighard, PHS Clerk effective December 31, 2015. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes. Mrs. Reighard has been with the Geauga County Health District for ten years.

XII. Other Business

Mr. Weisdack stated that he was recently notified that ODH would be doing a survey of the Swimming Pool Program beginning today.

XIII. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

IX. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board Mr. Goergen moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

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