I. Call to Order

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

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, Mr. David Gragg and Dr. Denis Rubal were present. Mrs. Christina Livers was not present.

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

Others present: There were no others present.

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 August 17, 2015 Board of Health meeting. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes and Dr. Rubal, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, August 11, 2015 to September 10, 2015. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved to acknowledge the notes for the record from the Sewage Workshop, August 31, 2015. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

V. Administrative Hearings


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

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.


VI. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules

Mr. Weisdack will be attending the Health Commissioner’s conference September 28-30, 2015.

Mr. Weisdack attended a meeting with a few of his fellow health commissioners regarding the sewage rules recently. They discussed some of the problems that have been found with the new systems. They also discussed some issues with the accreditation process. They are finding that the accreditation process is a very expensive endeavor for the local health districts. The group will continue to meet to discuss these issues.

b. USGS Groundwater Study

A copy of the study was received in the office recently. Mr. Weisdack felt it was a very good study with a lot of very important information. He offered it to the Board members for review.
c. General Information

Mr. Weisdack attended a zoning meeting in Hambden recently. He provided information on what impact the new sewage rules would affect them from the zoning aspect. The biggest change will be with the elimination of the one-house on one-lot rule.

Mr. Weisdack spoke with Erwin Leffel, HDAC Secretary regarding filling the vacant Board position. The HDAC will leave the position open and select a new member in March 2016.

VII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff submitted the FY2015 year-end report to ODH. The staff regularly attends the Regional Infection Control meetings, EOC trainings, Regional and State EPI meetings, Regional Ebola Planning meetings, Geauga County Functional Needs Committee meetings, and Geauga EOP planning meetings.

The staff continues to develop the Ebola response plan for Geauga. The next step is to solidify the transportation plans for Ebola-infected patients.

b. Disease Surveillance

The disease count for August was 36, 18 of which were STD’s. Some cases which were out of the ordinary included Legionella, Giardia and Lyme Disease.

c. Nursing Services

During the month of August, the nursing staff provided two Amish Well Child Clinics, 6 children and adolescent immunization clinics, 4 Friday Morning Adult clinics, and four Senior Center clinics. Included were visits for 34 children at the well child clinics, 618 vaccinations given to 200 children, 32 adult immunizations, 1 BP and 11 TB tests. The nurses also provided vision screenings that resulted in referrals for glasses for 28 children. There were four maternal/newborn visits and three BCMH home visits. Thirty-six communicable disease investigations were conducted.

The Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (Ohio MHAS) has set aside $500,000.00 per year to be used to enhance access to naloxone. Funds will be used to distribute Project DAWN (Death Avoidance with Naloxone) kits to local law enforcement, emergency personnel and first responders as per Ohio HB 64. LHDs will distribute the kits primarily because we have a pharmaceutical license. The Board discussed liability issues regarding distributing the kits to some entities but not another.

A Project DAWN kit contains two doses of naloxone and 2 face shields. We can also purchase ten syringe packets separately. Geauga County was allocated $3,472.00 towards these purchases. This will cover 70 – 100 doses. We will be responsible for reporting each year on how the naloxone was distributed.

d. WIC

The WIC caseload for August was not reported due to a system glitch. ODH is working to resolve the problem.

Geauga WIC represented the Geauga County Health District at the United Way Plan and Learn Day in August. The theme was promoting literacy. WIC provided “Let’s Move” books encouraging physical activity in young children.

The Electronic Benefits Card (EBT) known as the WIC Nutrition Card started in August. It was a difficult undertaking converting every WIC participant to the EBT system.

WIC completed their management evaluation recently. They passed with high scores.

e. Administration

Mr. Mix stated that our fiscal audit is complete and submitted to ODH as required by law.

We have been notified that the health insurance rates will increase by 13.2% in 2016. This is slightly less than we had budgeted, but much greater than anticipated. This will be the first time employee contributions will be increased in 11 years.
f. Accreditation

The staff has completed a performance management plan that identifies performance indicators in each of the core service programs and several performance indicators for the department administration.

VIII. Old Business

a. O&M Shareholders Committee

The committee held a meeting recently. The group rated which types of systems they felt should be inspected first. A tabulation of the results will be provided at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held November 9, 2015.

b. Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

Mr. Weisdack stated that he had submitted the application to OEPA requesting funding to assist Geauga County residents with the repair or replacement of malfunctioning sewage systems as requested by the Board at a previous meeting.

Mr. Gragg moved 9.15-a to approve the submission of an application to the Ohio EPA for the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund to assist low-income Geauga County residents with replacing failing sewage treatment systems. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

IX. New Business

Mr. Gragg moved 9.15-b to approve the hiring of a full-time secretary staff for EH not to exceed $14.50 per hour. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

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