

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
August 16, 2005, 7:00 p.m.  
Geauga County Health District Office  
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

Mr. Richard Lang, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:03 p.m., and stated the meeting was being held to conduct the regular business of the Board.

Board members present: Mr. Richard Lang, Mr. J. David Benenati, Mrs. Nan Burr, and Ms. Melanie Eppich. Dr. Donald Bowers arrived at 7:20 p.m. before the reading of the first variance.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner; Peggy Scherer, Personal Health Services Director; Michael Tusick, R.S.; and Alta Kress, Secretary Supervisor.

Others present: Two others were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Eppich moved that the minutes from the July 18, 2005 meeting be approved. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, abstained; Mrs. Burr, abstained; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

IV. Financial Report/Current Expenses

The Board members reviewed the July financial report for all funds. **Mr. Benenati moved to approve the Current Expenses June 10, 2005 to July 10, 2005. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

V. Variances

A. Fincham Soil Investigation/Dave Mann

Jim Fincham and Dave Mann were present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. Mr. Tusick was sworn in and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Fincham Soil Investigation in behalf of Dave Mann for the existing property located at 13094 Claridon Troy Rd., Claridon Twp. The request involves section 3701-28-10(E) of the Private Water Well Regulations which pertains to a 10 foot isolation distance from an occupied building. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case)

**Mr. Benenati moved to approve the variance as requested with the stipulation that the owner must abandon this well and drill a new one if it is determined not accessible by a drilling rig. Also, any chemicals applied to and around the home should be restricted to prevent contamination of the well water. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

B. Gwinn Brothers Construction/Kathy Andrews

Kathy Andrews was present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Lang. Mr. Weisdack was also sworn in by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Gwinn Brothers Construction in behalf of Kathy Andrews for the existing property located at 13619 Cuyahoga Tr., Russell Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(G) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which pertains to off-lot discharge. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case)

**Mrs. Burr moved to approve the variance as requested. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

C. Farris Excavating/Roger Bliss/Milestone Construction

Roger Bliss was present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Farris Excavating in behalf of Roger Bliss/Milestone Builders for the vacant property located at 14755 Headwater Ln., Claridon Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(H)(I) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which requires a replacement area for the sewage system. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case)

**Mr. Benenati moved to approve the variance as requested. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

D. Auburn Bainbridge Excavating/Leslie Richardson

Lewis Tomsic Jr. was present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Auburn Bainbridge Exc. in behalf of Leslie Richardson for the existing property located at 8676 Sugartree Dr., Russell Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(G) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which pertains to off-lot discharge. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case)

**Mrs. Burr moved to approve the variance as requested. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

E. Auburn Bainbridge Exc./Steven Balogh

Lewis Tomsic Jr. was sworn in again by Mr. Lang. Mr. Tusick was also sworn in again.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Auburn Bainbridge Exc. in behalf of Steven Balogh for the existing property located at 17834 Munn Rd., Auburn Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(C) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which pertains to more than one home on a lot. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case)

**Mrs. Burr moved to approve the variance as requested. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

VI. Administrative Hearings

A. Douglas Wolfe

Douglas Wolfe was present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Douglas Wolfe located at 10993 Henning Dr., Chardon Township. This case involves the following sections of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations:

Section 3701-29-02(D) states: "No household sewage disposal system or part thereof shall create a nuisance"

Section 3701-29-02(F) states: " No person shall discharge, or permit to be discharged, treated or untreated sewage or offensive wastes onto the surface of the ground, into any street, road, alley, open excavation, or underground drain."

Section 3701-29-17(A) states: "The Health Commissioner may at any reasonable time during the course of construction or any time thereafter inspect any household sewage disposal system or part thereof, sample the effluent or take any other steps which he deems necessary to insure proper compliance with regulations 3701-29-01 to 3701-29-21 of the Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations of the Geauga County Health District. The Health Commissioner may utilize inspection reports or other data submitted or obtained from reliable sources to determine compliance."

A dye test was performed on the sewage disposal system and dye was observed in the stream along the property line. Mr. Wolfe was instructed to install a sample well for sewage effluent testing. No sample well has been installed to date. In addition, there is no aeration motor in the aeration unit.

Mr. Wolfe indicated that he is aware that the system is not functioning correctly.

**Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Douglas Wolfe located at 10993 Henning Dr., Chardon Twp. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Mr. Benenati moved that the owner be required to obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. If based on the field sanitarian's evaluation an off-lot system is needed, the Board approves the installation of an off-lot system. In addition, the case will be referred to the Prosecutor's office if the owner does not respond. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

VII. Thom Michel

Thom Michel is a realtor who was representing his client Wilbur Manthey. Mr. Michel stated that Mr. Manthey had a For Sale of Property evaluation of his septic system. He stated that Mr. Manthey has lost several sales of his property due to the evaluation not being complete.

Mr. Weisdack indicated to the Board that he himself has been to this property due to the nature of the system. He explained the Board that he told Mr. Manthey to pump a tank that was questionable. At that time, Mr. Manthey asked if he could get his other 2 tanks pumped. Mr. Weisdack indicated that normally the department does not advise the tanks be pumped, but that he didn't have a problem with those tanks being pumped due to the peculiarity of this case. Mr. Manthey still has not pumped the tank in question.

Mr. Weisdack told Mr. Manthey to get the tank in question pumped and to call the office when it is done. Mr. Manthey and Mr. Michel indicated they would do so.

### VIII. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the number of installation permits is on the rise. A lot of the permits are for voluntary upgrades. He also stated that a classified ad for a sanitarian would soon be placed in the newspaper.

Mr. Weisdack told the Board that the staff would be testing the effluent from systems using UV light instead of chlorination. There are a few off-lot discharges using UV lights at this time

#### A. Chemical Water Testing Machine

Mr. Weisdack reported that the water testing machine (HAPSITE) should be ready in 4 to 6 weeks. A news release will be sent out to the media.

#### B. Rabies Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that Geauga County now has 12 cases of rabies. The CDC seems to be slowing down on surveillance. The theme for the health district booth at the Geauga County Fair is Rabies. There will be a game for the children to play. If they get the questions correct, they can enter a drawing to win a puppet.

### IX. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer reported that there would be a regional bioterrorism drill on August 26, 2005. Mr. Benenati has agreed to be an observer at the drill.

Kathy Durchik will be taking classes at the Ohio State University to become certified in Epidemiology. ODH will be paying for the classes.

Flu clinics have been scheduled. All clinics are subject to the availability of vaccine. ODH will be getting less vaccine this year, but has indicated that it shouldn't affect the local health districts.

Currently, the Health District has a contract with the Geauga County Department on Aging. The Health District provides a full-time dietitian for the seniors as part of this contract. The Department on Aging is experiencing funding problems. Their levy expires this year, but they will be asking voters to support a 1 mil renewal levy and a .5 mil additional levy.

Sally Bell is very adamant about having the dietitian for the seniors. She wants to continue the contract as well as continue the senior clinics. Mrs. Scherer will be putting together a package of how much the services will cost and then Ms. Bell can then prioritize which services to keep in case of levy failure.

Mrs. Scherer reported that the Geauga County Impact Study is complete and available on their website. It is a community assessment. There were several agencies involved. She stated that it was not as in-depth as she would have liked to have seen it. It is a 300 page report but there is an executive summary.

Mrs. Scherer stated that the staff are looking at the way the tuberculosis program is run at the health district. Currently, anyone with TB whom has insurance and a family physician is referred to their physician for medical treatment. In Lake County, the patients get the medication from the health district for free. The Lake County Health District also does assessments of the patients.

Gauga County Health District has recently received negativity from physicians in Lake County because we do not do the same as Lake County. Mrs. Scherer stated that she is looking to amend our policy (with the assistance of Dr. Moritz). The plan would include covering blood testing, x-rays, and medication for people with TB. More information will be provided to the Board.

## A. WIC

Mrs. Scherer reported the Diaper Dash plans are being finalized. Bill Repke, former county commissioner, will be announcing the event. Babies 'R Us has indicated that they would like to co-sponsor the event next year.

The Farmer's Market Nutrition Program issued 118 coupons in July. Still no word on whether extra coupons will be available.

## B. Health Education Programs

The Amish Health Aide will be held on August 20, 2005. Representatives from WIC and Personal Health Services will be present. The event will be held in Windsor, in Ashtabula County.

Mrs. Scherer reported that there will be a satellite broadcast on Agro terrorism and Biosecurity. She invited the Board to attend.

## X. Old Business

There was no old business.

## XI. Executive Session

**Dr. Bowers moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:19 p.m. to discuss personnel. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes. Meeting reconvened at 10:01 p.m. Mr. Lang stated that no action would be taken based on the discussion in Executive Session.**

## XII. New Business

**Mr. Benenati moved 8.05-1 to approve the payment to Burton Lumber & Fuel in the amount of \$1,021.09. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 8.05-2 to adopt and approve the maternity licensure application for UHHS Geauga Regional Hospital. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 8.05-3 to approve the PHI GY2005 budget revision as presented. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Mrs. Burr moved 8.05-4 to approve the letter of arrangement with the Auditor of State for auditing services. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 8.05-5 to approve the payment to Public Entities Pool of Ohio for liability insurance in the amount of \$15,690.00. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Mrs. Burr moved 8.05-6 to approve the transfer of funds as follows: \$30,000.00 from Health Insurance; \$9,056.63 from Workers Comp; and \$4,500.00 from Equipment/Maintenance to the following: \$5,000.00 to Supplies; \$5,000.00 to Vaccine; \$5,000.00 to Travel; and \$28,556.63 to Other Expense. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

XIV. Other Business

The Board of Health minutes for the regular meetings are now posted on our website. They will be posted each month after Board approval.

XV. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held September 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room at 470 Center Street, Building 8, in Chardon, Ohio.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Dr. Bowers moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Weisdack, RS, MA, MPH  
Secretary of the Board

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