

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 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 7:01 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, Dr. Donald Bowers, Mrs. Nan Burr, and Ms. Melanie Eppich.

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

Others present: Five others were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

**Mrs. Burr moved that the minutes from the November 14, 2005 meeting be approved with the change to motion 11.05-4 which incorrectly listed Dr. Bowers and Mr. Lang as voting (Dr. Bowers and Mr. Lang were not present at the meeting). Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, abstain; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, abstain; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

IV. Financial Report/Current Expenses

The Board members reviewed the November financial report for all funds. **Mrs. Burr moved to approve the Current Expenses November 10, 2005 to December 8, 2005. 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.**

V. Variances

A. Zeigler Earthworks/David Fish

Rod Zeigler was present and sworn in Mr. Lang. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Lang and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Zeigler Earthworks in behalf of David Fish for the existing property located at 15587 Claridon Troy Rd., Burton Twp. The request involves the following sections of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations: 3701-29-02(G) which pertains to off-lot discharge; 3701-29-08(K) which requires 50' from the water well to the sewage system; and Section 3701-29-10 (F) and (G) of the Private Water System Rules which requires a 50' isolation distance to a sewage system.

(Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

**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.**

B. Fincham Soil Service/Tom Robbins

Jim Fincham 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 Fincham Soil Service in behalf of Tom Robbins for the existing property located at 9561 Robinson Rd., Chardon 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) Discussion followed.

**Mr. Benenati 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. Fincham Soil Service/Minni Jerke

Jim Fincham and Mr. Tusick were sworn in again by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Fincham Soil Service in behalf of Minni Jerke for the existing property located at 9783 Madison Rd., Montville 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) Discussion followed.

**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.**

**Dr. Bowers moved that the owner must maintain all common tile lines. 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.**

VI. Administrative Hearings

A. Blanche Harris

Blanche Harris was not present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Lang and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a code violation to the property owned by Blanche Harris located at 10656 East Washington St., Bainbridge Township. This case is in regards to the section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which states: "Any person proposing to sell or offering to sell or transfer title to a

parcel of property that has an existing residential sewage disposal system must have the system evaluated before such sale or transfer takes place.”

This department has reviewed the Auditor records and found that this property has transferred ownership and has not had an evaluation conducted. Discussion followed.

**Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Blanche Harris located at 10656 East Washington St., Bainbridge Township. 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 ordered to make application and provide the necessary information to have a For Sale of Property evaluation conducted within 14 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor’s Office for legal action. 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. Connie Marshall

Connie Marshall was not present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a code violation to the property owned by Connie Marshall located at 11393 Park Ln., Newbury Township. This case is in regards to the section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which states: “Any person proposing to sell or offering to sell or transfer title to a parcel of property that has an existing residential sewage disposal system must have the system evaluated before such sale or transfer takes place.”

This department has reviewed the Auditor records and found that this property has transferred ownership and has not had an evaluation conducted. Discussion followed.

**Mr. Benenati moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Connie Marshall located at 11393 Park Ln., Newbury Township. 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 ordered to make application and provide the necessary information to have a For Sale of Property evaluation conducted within 14 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor’s Office for legal action. 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.**

C. Jennifer Stevenson

Jennifer Stevenson was not present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a code violation to the property owned by Jennifer Stevenson located at 7411 Dewey Rd., Thompson Township. This case is in regards to the section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which states: “Any person proposing to sell or offering to sell or transfer title to a

parcel of property that has an existing residential sewage disposal system must have the system evaluated before such sale or transfer takes place.”

This department has reviewed the Auditor records and found that this property has transferred ownership and has not had an evaluation conducted. Discussion followed.

**Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Jennifer Stevenson located at 7411 Dewey Rd., Thompson Township. 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.**

**Mr. Benenati moved that the owner be ordered to make application and provide the necessary information to have a For Sale of Property evaluation conducted within 14 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor’s Office for legal action. 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. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the number of sewage inspections has decreased due to the weather and holiday season.

The HAPSITE training has been held. There were 4 people trained to use the equipment, 3 from the Health District and 1 from the Department of Water Resources. The training session was video taped to be used to train others at a later time. Mr. Weisdack stated that he would be working on a policy and procedure manual for the unit within the next couple of months.

A. Parkman Twp. Nuisance Complaint Update

Doug Bowen from the Department of Water Resources was present to explain what is happening with this situation. This area was turned in as a nuisance complaint. The residents voted to have sanitary sewers. After many years of trying to get a package plant built, it seems the nuisance will be abated by the installation of sanitary sewers.

The Department of Water Resources is confident the sanitary sewers will begin to be installed within the next 18 months.

B. Sewage Rules Update

The draft rules are currently being reviewed. The Board will need to have meetings to discuss the future of the sewage program in Geauga County. ODH has said that the final rules will be drafted by the middle of January 2006 and implemented in May of 2006.

C. Asphalt Plant Update

The hearings for the White Road asphalt plant have been cancelled. They may resume possibly in January 2006.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer reported that the Well Child Clinic received a site visit from ODH in November. Policy and procedures were reviewed for the birthing center. There were no violations and no recommendations made by ODH.

Flu is reported as sporadic in Ohio. To date, over 3,000 doses of flu vaccine have been administered. Mrs. Scherer reported that there is still flu vaccine left.

A. WIC

Tammy Hawn has completed courses and passed the exam to become a certified lactation counselor.

B. Health Education Programs

Kids Fest was a big success this year. There were over 30 agencies represented with more than 500 people in attendance. The only problem was that there was not enough room.

The plan is to hold Kids Fest again this year at Berkshire High School. The committee is asking for donations to help fund the event. The money would be used to cover the charge of overtime for the janitors at the school. Mrs. Scherer informed the Board of the different levels of donation.

IX. Old Business

A. Wording Change FSP Evaluation (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

**Mrs. Burr moved 12.05-1 to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the change to section 3701-29-22 (A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations to read "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 any correction action(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed." Upon the third reading, the previous wording to this regulation (3701-29-22(A)) will be rescinded. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

X. Executive Session

**Dr. Bowers moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. 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 10:50 p.m.** Mr. Lang stated that no action would be taken based on the discussion in Executive Session.

XI. New Business

**Mrs. Burr moved 12.05-2 to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Chapter 7 of the Geauga Co. Health District Personnel Policy. 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.**

**Mr. Benenati moved 12.05-3 to acknowledge the hiring of Becky Kelly as EH Secretary effective December 13, 2005 at a rate of \$9.00 per hour with a \$.25/hr increase upon successful completion of 120 day probationary period. 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 12.05-4 to acknowledge the hiring of Karen DeWeese, RN as a Public Health nurse effective December 27, 2005 at a rate of \$16.50 per hour with a \$.25 per hour increase upon successful completion of 120 day probationary period. 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 12.05-5 to approve the renewal of the Solid Waste Contract for 2006, pending prosecutor's approval. 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 12.05-6 to approve the contract with Arch Wireless for pager service. 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.**

**Mr. Benenati moved 12.05-7 to make a \$500.00 pledge to the Kids Fest 2006. 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.**

XII. Other Business

There was no other business

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2006 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, **Mrs. Burr moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

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