

Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Geauga County Health District Office
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

Mr. J. David Benenati called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:11 p.m..

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Dr. Donald Bowers, Mrs. Nan Burr, and Ms. Melanie Eppich. Mr. Richard Lang was not present.

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

Others present: One other was present

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Burr moved that the minutes from the January 16, 2007 meeting be approved with the correction as to the location of the February meeting taking place in the meeting room and not in the lobby. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, abstain.

IV. Financial Report / Current Expenses

The Board members reviewed the January financial report for all funds. **Mrs. Burr moved to approve the Current Expenses January 9, 2007 to February 14, 2007. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.**

V. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the State is still moving on with the implementation of the sewage code regulations. There is confusion throughout the local health departments within the rules. Mr. Tusick contacts Ohio Department of Health with questions on a daily basis for clarification of the rules. The lack of direction by ODH makes it very hard for the Health District, installers and the homeowners.

There are questions regarding what standards to use for testing of off lot systems. Under the old rules, BODs and Suspended Solids were used. The new State rules only use Fecal Coli form Bacteria as a testing standard. The new standards are going to be set under the NPDES permit for new systems. Mr. Weisdack stated that he would work with the staff to come up with

a standard that will be supported legally. He will also contact the state and come back to the Board with a recommendation. He added that no new permits have been issued since January 1, 2007 under the new code in Geauga County.

Mr. Weisdack has again been asked by a citizens group to testify on their behalf against the White Road asphalt plant. Mr. Weisdack indicated he would have done so, but the meeting for this issue was tonight. At a previous meeting the Board of Health agreed to allow Mr. Weisdack to testify against the asphalt plants when requested to do so.

VI. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer stated that flu is still being reported at a sporadic level in Ohio.

On February 2, 2007, the Health District took part in the regional Pandemic Flu drill. It showed the strengths and weaknesses within our own department as well as the region.

Representatives from Ohio Department of Health will be visiting at the end of February to monitor our preparedness for the Cities Readiness Initiative. Geauga County is in the region with the City of Cleveland. They will be looking at our plans for readiness to accept the Strategic National Stockpile, which is the shipment of drugs and medical supplies that can be deployed rapidly in case of some type of medical emergency or public health emergency. They will review our plan for administration of vaccine in a mass clinic or administration of prophylaxes.

On February 15, 2007 a case of bacterial meningitis was reported to us by Lake County Health Department. The girl lives in Lake County and is a student at Notre Dame Cathedral Latin in Geauga County. A conference call was set up with Lake County Health Department, Ohio Department of Health, and Geauga Health District to discuss a strategy for dealing with the people who had close contacts with the girl. We went into incident command mode and formulated a joint press release with Lake County Health Department. We were able to test our physician notification system by sending out a blast fax to area physicians. We also contacted the superintendents of all schools involved, which not only included Notre Dame Cathedral Latin, but the girls gymnastics team which practices at West Geauga High School along with other gymnasts from Chagrin Falls High School and Wickliffe High School. On Thursday evening, Mrs. Scherer spoke to the parents of the gymnasts involved at West Geauga High School. Sample letters and information sheets were given to all the schools involved to distribute. A hotline was set up for parents and physicians to call over the weekend.

To date, there were no reports of peanut butter related salmonella poisoning. There recently was an outbreak due to contaminated peanut butter.

A. WIC

WIC will be receiving an additional \$800.00 in grant funds this year along with a new 32" flat screen television set.

WIC is also offering breast-feeding classes for new moms on a monthly basis in the meeting room. These classes are geared more for WIC participants, but will be available for any mothers having issues with breast-feeding. Tammi Hawn, a (Certified Lactation Consultant), will conduct this class. She will also present a class to our new born home visiting nurses on new breast-feeding techniques.

B. Health Education

Mrs. Scherer reported on a meeting that was held with the Health and Wellness Taskforce at the end of January. They are looking at health and wellness resources throughout the county. 211, First Call for Help, will work with the Taskforce on establishing a directory of specific Geauga County services for wellness.

February 11-17, 2007 is Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week. We have received some brochures and bookmarks from the Injury Prevention Center at Rainbows, Babies and Children Hospital that we will put in our information packs for BCMH and for newborn home visits.

A cost analysis will be done on all PHS programs this year. The fee structure of our vaccines will be looked at closely.

VII. Variances

A. Nancy Obuchowski / Ralph Harvey

Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience. Mr. Ralph Harvey was present and also sworn in by Mr. Benenati.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is a variance request by Ralph Harvey and Nancy Obuchowski for the property located at **8645 Silvercreek Dr., Russell Township**. The request involves the section 3701-28-10(E) of the Private Water Well Regulations which pertains to a 10-foot isolation distance from an occupied building.

The owners are proposing an addition to their house, which will enclose one of the water wells on the property within the foundation of the new addition. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case.) Discussion followed.

Mrs. Burr moved to approve the variance. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, no; Mrs. Burr, no; Ms. Eppich, no. Variance was denied.

Finding of Fact was as Follows: The variance request has been denied due to the possibility of contamination of the water table.

VIII. Old Business

A. Smoking Ban

Mr. Weisdack reported that a letter was received from Anne Harnish, Acting Director of Ohio Department of Health, indicating they would like to contract with the local health departments to conduct activities on behalf of the Ohio Department of Health regarding the smoking ban. Ohio Department of Health would subsidize Geauga County \$3,177.00 to implement the program. Mrs. Scherer offered Personal Health Services to enforce the smoking ban. The Board of Health agreed that this is a worthwhile cause but the contract is too vague. The question is how to enforce something without written rules.

Mr. Weisdack indicated that this issue will be brought to the Board once the rules are written.

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-1 to table. Dr. Bowers seconded. Mr. Benenati recommends that the motion be moved to amended, tabled and seconded pending the contract with Ohio Department of Health to perform services as related to the smoking ban. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

B. 2008 Budget

Mr. Weisdack stated that the budget has not changed since the workshop. The auditor's office has reviewed it and had no changes.

IX. Executive Session

Dr. Bowers moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss ... at 9:00 p.m. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes. Meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

X. New Business

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-2 to approve the 1st reading of the proposed fee for Operations & Maintenance inspections of off-lot sewage disposal systems in the amount of \$150.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-3 to approve the purchase of flu vaccine for the 2007-2008 season in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-4 to approve the CFHS sliding fee scale as presented. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-6 to certify funds in the amount of \$17,500.00 and appropriate new funding and un-appropriated balance to 05-IW-Other, \$21,537.43 and 04-IW-Travel, \$2,420.00 in the Solid/ Infectious Waste Fund. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 2.07-7 to certify and appropriate WIC GY 2007 funds in the amount of \$800.00. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-8 to approve the WIC GY 2007 Budget Revision as presented. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-9 to appropriate \$200,000.00 to the Public Health Emergency line item (08-E). Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mrs. Burr moved 2.07-10 to rescind resolution 1-2006, Registration of Soil Professionals/ Scientists/ Soil Evaluators; 3-2006, For Sale of Property Evaluation; and 6-2006, Registration of Sewage Treatment System Designers. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes.

X. Employee of the Year

A split vote elected two employees this year. Linda Knell and Gayle Duncan are both entitled to one extra day off with pay.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Burr moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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