

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2007, 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 7:10 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, and Mrs. Nan Burr. Ms. Melanie Eppich was not present.

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

Others present: One other was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Board Minutes

**Mr. Benenati moved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2006 meeting. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

**Mrs. Burr moved to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2006 meeting with the following amendments made by Mr. Lang: Page 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, change 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence from "The differences in the soils reports were discussed." to "The differences in the soils reports submitted for each property were discussed."; In paragraphs 6 through 10, change the question marks to periods; and in the last paragraph, change the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence from "Mr. Fincham stated that he has a Bachelors of Science degree in Agronomy from the Iowa State University, 25 years experience in soils, certified by ARCPACS Board of Certification for the Soils Sciences Society of America and belong The National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists." to "Mr. Fincham stated that he has a Bachelors of Science degree in Agronomy from the Iowa State University, 25 years experience in soils, is certified by ARCPACS Board of Certification for the Soils Sciences Society of America and belongs to The National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists."; and change the question mark in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence to a period. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

VI. Financial Report/Current Expenses

The Board members reviewed the December financial report for all funds. **Mrs. Burr moved to approve the Current Expenses December 11, 2006 to January 9, 2007. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

## V. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the number of permits issued for septic permits for 2006 was higher than 2005. He attributed that increase to the number of residents who wanted to get the permit to replace their system under the old rules.

Mr. Tusick stated that the components that are to be used for drip systems under the new rules have not been approved by the State as of yet. Any companies who were approved by the State last year must resubmit their information to get approved for this year. At this point, no companies have submitted their information for approval. Once components are approved, they are posted on the State website.

## VI. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer stated that flu is reported as sporadic in Ohio. The type of flu reported is the type covered by the vaccine given this year. Flu shots are still being given at Friday morning clinics. Some counties are going to the schools and giving the vaccine to school age children.

The Public Health Infrastructure grant received an increase of \$7,194.00. These funds must be used for Pandemic Flu planning.

The regional Health Districts (Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga and Ashtabula) and Geauga Hospital will be taking part in a Pandemic Flu exercise on February 2, 2007.

The Nuclear Regulatory Committee (NRC) is working with ODH about possibly replacing the KI pills that will be expiring in May of this year. These pills were distributed in 2003 to the residents that live within the 10 mile radius of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. A decision is expected to be made by June or July.

### A. WIC

Mrs. Scherer reported that due to recent large plant layoffs in the county, the WIC staff is trying to put together an outreach program to reach the families affected.

### B. Health Education

Mrs. Scherer reported that there will be another health and wellness taskforce meeting this month. The Geauga County YMCA, UH Geauga Medical Center, Geauga Park District and the United Way are presenting a fitness challenge. Participants in the challenge will receive 3 doctor's visits for evaluation, 3 monthly meetings with a dietitian, and a free pedometer. The participants will keep a log of their physical activities and diet.

## VII. Variances

### A. Blanket Variance for Depth to a Seasonal Water Table

Mr. Tusick explained that under the new rules, section 3701-29-13(A) requires a minimum of 2' to any limiting condition. This includes soils with a high seasonal water table. Many lots that were previously approved by the department, existing properties, and newly

proposed lot splits or subdivisions have soils with less than 12" to a seasonal water table. Section 3701-29-13(D)(1) allows the Board of Health to grant a variance to paragraphs A & B of this rule in accordance with 13(D)(1) and rule 3701-29-18.

Mr. Tusick stated that the Environmental Health staff recommends granting a blanket variance for lots with seasonal water tables at less than 12" but greater than 8". This would affect only new on-site systems being installed under the new code. The current variance fee would need to be submitted to the Health District, but it would be issued as an in-house variance.

**Mr. Benenati moved to approve a blanket variance for lots with a seasonal water table at less than 12" but greater than 8" for new on-site systems in accordance with 3701-29-13(D)(1). Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

#### VIII. Old Business

##### A. Jim Fincham

Mr. Weisdack reported that the State has indicated that they are not going to allow the registration of soils professionals. Based on this information, the Board can only suspend Mr. Fincham's soil professional registration until December 31, 2006. Based on this information **Dr. Bowers moved 1.07-1 to vacate the order suspending Jim Fincham's soil professional registration. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

##### B. Solid Waste Contract

The Solid Waste Plan is for 15 years. The contract is for a 1 year period. It was previously thought that Geauga County would not be receiving any money for the Solid Waste Program from the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District. We will be receiving \$15,000.00 for 2007. We register all solid waste trucks in the county which brings in approximately \$5,300.00. For 2007, we will have approximately \$20,300.00 to run the Solid Waste Program.

**Dr. Bowers moved 1.07-2 to approve the 2007 Solid Waste Program Contract. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

##### C. Supervisor Training

Mr. Weisdack reported that the supervisor training has been scheduled to begin January 19, 2007. This training will be provided by Clemans-Nelson and Associates. It will be held for the next 6 months and will cover various topics regarding the supervision of personnel.

#### IX. Executive Session

**Dr. Bowers moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss the personnel. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.** Meeting reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

X. New Business

Mr. Weisdack gave the Board a timeline for the 2008 budget approval process. He indicated that he would like to have a budget workshop sometime before the next regular Board meeting.

**Mr. Benenati moved 1.07-3 to approve the contracts with George Denniston, RN; Rhonda Stroke, RN; and Barbara Eyring, RN. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

**Mrs. Burr moved 1.07-4 to certify and appropriate PHI funds for GY2007 in the amount of \$7,194.00. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

**Mrs. Burr moved 1.07-5 to approve the purchase of a vaccine freezer in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

**Mrs. Burr moved 1.07-6 to approve the contract with Family First Council to provide newborn home visits for the Help Me Grow program. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

**Mr. Benenati moved 1.07-7 to approve the contract with University Hospitals which allows residents to attend our Orthopedic and Neurology clinics. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

**Mrs. Burr moved 1.07-8 to approve the contract renewal with CHC Software for a 1 year maintenance agreement for the HDIS software in the amount of \$1,514.25. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Mrs. Burr, yes.**

XII. Other Business

A. EDRS System

Mrs. Burr reported on the new Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) which became effective January 1, 2007. All death certificates must be electronically filed. The state was not prepared. Mrs. Burr reported that there are many problems with the system. She stated that she would be surprised if it lasts 6 months. The support line is continuously busy. Once a message was able to be left, it took 8 days to get a return call.

Some of the doctor's offices have not heard about the system and they must also use it. Dr. Bowers confirmed that he had no information about this system either.

Mrs. Burr stated that she wanted the Board to know that again the State enacted a regulation that they were not prepared for.

B. DES Terrorism, Mitigation and Planning Committee

Mr. Weisdack reported that he was appointed to the DES Terrorism, Mitigation and Planning Committee again by the County Commissioners.

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., in the Environment Health lobby 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 9:55 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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