

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 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 7:05 p.m., and stated the meeting was being held to conduct the regular business of the Board and that these proceedings were being tape recorded. The purpose of the taping is to assist the recording secretary in preparing the official printed minutes and are not for public review.

Board members present: Mr. Richard Lang, Mr. J. David Benenati, Dr. Donald Bowers, Mrs. Nan F. Burr, and Ms. Melanie Eppich.

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

Others present: Nan Norton.

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 December 20, 2004 meeting be approved. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

IV. Financial Report/Current Expenses

The Board members reviewed the December financial report for all funds. **Mrs. Burr moved to approve Current Expenses December 13, 2004 to January 10, 2005. Mr. Benenati 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. Jeff Szuter/Brian Brodnik

Bill Wendell was sworn in by Mr. Lang and stated their experience. Jeff Szuter and Brian Brodnik were present and sworn in by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Wendell stated that this was a variance request by Jeff Szuter in behalf of Brian Brodnik for the existing property located at 18151 Greatwood Ln., Auburn Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(H)(1) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations with pertains to a replacement area. (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.**

B. Jeff Szuter/Stansilava Zitnik

Jeff Szuter and Mr. Wendell were sworn in again by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Wendell stated that this is a variance request by Jeff Szuter in behalf of Stansilava Zitnik for the vacant property located at 9743 Mentor Rd., Chardon Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-10(B) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which requires 4' below the bottom of a trench to bedrock. (This lot was recorded prior to 1985.) (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case.)

**Mr. Benenati moved to approve the variance as requested. 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.**

C. Romano Ianiro Contracting/Kevin Beckwith

Luigi Ianiro was present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. Mr. Wendell was sworn in again also.

Mr. Wendell stated that this is a variance request by Romano Ianiro Contracting in behalf of Kevin Beckwith for the existing property located at 9937 Cutts Rd., Hambden 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.**

VI. Administrative Hearings

A. Deborah Jones

Paul Soltis and Deborah Jones-Soltis were present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. Mr. Weisdack was also sworn and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Deborah Jones located at 8567 Auburn Rd., Chardon Township. This case is in regards to the section 3701-29-17(A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which 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/she deems necessary to insure proper compliance."

This case involves a nuisance complaint investigation. The field staff have made numerous attempts to contact the owner, however, no contact has been made. Discussion followed.

Mr. & Mrs. Soltis agreed to allow dye testing and to install a sample well once the dye has been located.

**Mrs. Burr moved that the owner be ordered to do the following: schedule a dye test within 15 days of receipt of Board order and to install a sewage effluent sample well within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor's Office for legal action. 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.**

B. Joseph Workman

Joseph Workman was not present. John Workman was present and sworn in by Mr. Lang. He stated he was representing his father. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Lang again.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Joseph Workman located at 15344 Thompson Rd., Thompson Township. This case is in regards to the section 3701-29-17(A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which 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/she deems necessary to insure proper compliance."

This case involves a nuisance complaint investigation. A dye test needs to be conducted and a sample taken to determine if the system is failing. Discussion followed.

**Mrs. Burr moved that the owner be ordered to do the following: schedule a dye test within 15 days of receipt of Board order; install a sewage effluent sample well within 30 days of receipt of Board order; and if the system is found to be failing, install a new sewage disposal system within 90 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor's Office for legal action. 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.**

VII. Environmental Health Program Update

A. Asphalt Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that no further information has been requested from him from the township trustees regarding this matter. The asphalt company has asked the judge to move on this issue because the township trustees have not made a decision.

B. HB 231 Update

Mr. Weisdack reported since the passage of HB231, that there is concern from other Environmental Health Directors and Health Commissioners. There is nothing that can be done except to wait for the rules to be developed and then adopted by the Public Health Council.

He told the Board that after the rules are adopted, sewage subcommittee meetings will be needed to discuss what will need to be done within Geauga County.

C. Rabies Update

Surveillance will begin again mid-February. The State will be dropping bait again in the spring in the target areas.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer reported that flu is still sporadic within Ohio. The Health District is currently out of vaccine and will not be getting any more.

The new public health nurse has been hired to fill the vacant position. She will be starting January 31, 2005. She has pediatric and home care experience.

Mrs. Scherer also announced that an intern from Case Western Reserve will be working with the public health nurses. He is a registered nurse who is working on his Master's Degree. He will spend a total of 14 days in the Health District; 7 days for clinical research, 5 days doing a community assessment and 2 days on another project.

Vaccine prices are on the rise. Mrs. Scherer provided the Board with information regarding the cost of the vaccine as well as the cost of administration. She stated that the Board will need to discuss whether to continue providing the vaccine at a loss or raise prices to cover costs.

A. WIC

Beginning January 31, 2005, the WIC office will be open 4 days per week with one evening clinic per month. The WIC staff will flex hours for the evening clinic.

B. Health Education Programs

The PHHS grant ended December 31, 2004. Mrs. Scherer reported that another grant for Senior Safety had been applied for, but we were turned down.

IX. Old Business

Mr. Weisdack provided the Board with the HDAC schedule. He stated that a Budget Subcommittee meeting will be needed before he goes before the HDAC with the 2006 budget.

In the past, mandatory septic tank pumping had been discussed. Mr. Weisdack said that at that time, the Department of Water Resources agreed to expand their plants to receive home sewage. Gus Saikaly from Water

Resources has recently informed Mr. Weisdack that they will be ready approximately August – October of 2005. Mr. Weisdack stated he would be working out some details and bring a recommendation to the Board in the near future.

X. Executive Session

**Ms. Eppich moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. to discuss personnel and the health commissioner's evaluation and contract. 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. Meeting reconvened at 10:33 p.m.** Mr. Lang stated that no action would be taken regarding personnel and the health commissioner's evaluation and contract.

XI. New Business

**Dr. Bowers moved 1.05-1 to approve the contract with George Dennison, RN, Linda Kallay, RN, Rhonda Stroke, RN, and Barbara Eyring, RN, pending prosecutor's approval. 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.**

**Ms. Eppich moved 1.05-2 to approve the hiring of Cheri Gapin, RN, BSN as a Public Health Nurse effective January 31, 2005 at a rate of \$16.25 per hour with an increase of \$.25 per hour after successful completion of 120 day probationary period. 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 1.05-3 to approve the contract with Family First Council, pending prosecutor approval. 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.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 1.05-4 to approve the Help Me Grow Newborn Home Visit budget. 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 1.05-5 to approve the contract with Geauga Department on Aging. 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 1.05-6 to approve Resolution 2005-1, regarding Rabies. 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.**

XII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held February 22, 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, **Mrs. Burr moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 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