

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2009, 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, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:02 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Mr. Richard Lang, Ms. Melanie Eppich, and Mr. Timothy Goergen. Dr. Donald Bowers arrived at 7:05 p.m. after the approval of Current Expenses.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner; Dan Mix, Personal Health Services Director; Michael Tusick, R.S., and Alta Kress, Administrative Assistant.

Others present: There were four others present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Eppich moved to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2009 regular meeting. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

IV. Financial Report / Current Expenses

**Mr. Lang moved to approve the Current Expenses February 11, 2009 to March 5, 2009. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

V. Environmental Health Program Update

A. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Tusick reviewed with the Board some of the highlights of the proposed sewage law. Much of it is the same as it had been proposed before with very few changes. The rules are supposed to be written within 12 months of the law becoming effective. The Ohio Department of Health is trying to get that timeframe changed to 24 months.

Mr. Weisdack stated that he would provide testimony if needed.

B. Plumbing Inspector/Lake County Health District

Mr. Weisdack stated that he had spoken with Frank Kellogg, Environmental Health Director for Lake County Health District recently. Mr. Kellogg inquired whether Geauga County Health District would be willing to contract with them for plumbing inspections. Mr. Weisdack stated that since things are very slow in the building industry, that our plumbing inspector could possibly do some of those inspections. This would allow us to perhaps bring in some additional revenue for plumbing. Mr. Weisdack will be discussing this issue with Mr. Kellogg.

#### VI. Personal Health Services Update

Mr. Mix reported that the Geauga County Health District will be conducting an all-day local emergency preparedness drill on April 17, which will involve 80% of the staff. A training session will be held before the drill so that the staff will have a better idea of their roles.

Herb Shubick has made great progress in getting the Geauga Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) grant activities organized. The Geauga MRC will be hosting a workshop in May as a follow-up to the meeting held in 2008. This workshop is aimed at providing the volunteers information on available training and seminars. They will also review policies and procedures that Jay Becker and Mr. Shubick have been developing over the past two months. This workshop is being held so that we can maintain contact with the volunteers so they stay interested. Some MRC units actually hold clinics on behalf of the health district. We may attempt that this fall with the flu clinics.

Mr. Mix reported that an RFP has been received for the 2010 CFHS grant. It will be at the same as the current level of \$81,040.00. The RFP for the 2010 PHEP grant has been received as well. This grant replaces the PHI grant. The funding level will remain the same at \$109,544.00, however it is expected that the CRI funding will drop anywhere from 10%-30% in 2010.

Mr. Mix stated that a response still has not been received regarding our appeal for disallowed expenditures of the 2008 CFHS grant. We have received another invoice, so the Board was asked to approve the refund.

A representative from ODH held an IMPACT SIIS training session for the PHS staff in February. IMPACT SIIS is the ODH childhood immunization database that enables both local health districts and private physicians to maintain one common database. Currently, we use an outdated DOS system that is at risk for obsolescence due to hardware and software compatibility. The problem with switching is that ODH has changed the abbreviations over the years and when the data is uploaded, the abbreviations are not recognized by IMPACT. We have had several attempts to upload our data without success. At this point, the only ways to ensure that the data is complete is to hand input or correct 32,000 records, which would be a large task.

##### A. WIC

The WIC caseload is currently at 892 clients. Mr. Mix stated that in response to a request from ODH, the 2010 WIC grant budget is being worked on now.

##### B. Health Education

There is nothing to report for Health Education.

#### VII. Administrative Hearings

##### A. Jeremy Vecchio; Elizabeth Kovach; Robert Conkey; and Richard Copeland

None of the above mentioned were present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by Jeremy Vecchio, 16171 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp.; Elizabeth Kovach, 18032 Church St., Parkman Twp.; Robert Conkey, 16202 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp.; and Richard Copeland, 16560 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp. This case is in regards to section 3701-29-02(L) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System regulations, which states: "No household sewage disposal system shall be installed, maintained, or operated on property accessible to a sanitary sewerage system." Discussion followed.

**Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the properties owned by Jeremy Vecchio, 16171 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp.; Elizabeth Kovach, 18032 Church St., Parkman Twp.; Robert Conkey, 16202 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp.; and Richard Copeland, 16560 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

**Mr. Lang moved that Jeremy Vecchio, 16171 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp.; Elizabeth Kovach, 18032 Church St., Parkman Twp.; Robert Conkey, 16202 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp.; and Richard Copeland, 16560 Main Market Rd., Parkman Twp. be required to connect to the sanitary sewer system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to do so will result in referral to the prosecutor's office for legal action. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

B. Judith Harnett; Enos & Martha Slabaugh; John Hornyak; Joseph Stegh; and Bryan & Laura Evan

None of the above mentioned were present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by Judith Harnett, 7210 Cedar Rd., Chester Twp.; Enos & Martha Slabaugh, 15757 Burton Windsor Rd., Middlefield Twp.; John Hornyak, 8696 Clay St., Montville Twp.; Joseph Stegh, 17530 Haskins Rd., Bainbridge Twp.; and Bryan & Laura Evan, 11036 Olmar Dr., Chardon Twp. These cases are in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states, "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 corrective action(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed." Discussion followed.

**Mr. Lang moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Judith Harnett, 7210 Cedar Rd., Chester Twp.; Enos & Martha Slabaugh, 15757 Burton Windsor Rd., Middlefield Twp.; John Hornyak, 8696 Clay St., Montville Twp.; Joseph Stegh, 17530 Haskins Rd., Bainbridge Twp.; and Bryan & Laura Evan, 11036 Olmar Dr., Chardon Twp. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

**Ms. Eppich moved that Judith Harnett, 7210 Cedar Rd., Chester Twp.; Enos & Martha Slabaugh, 15757 Burton Windsor Rd., Middlefield Twp.; John Hornyak, 8696 Clay St., Montville Twp.; Joseph Stegh, 17530 Haskins Rd., Bainbridge Twp.; and Bryan & Laura Evan, 11036**

**Olmar Dr., Chardon Twp. be required to make application, pay for, schedule, and complete a For Sale of Property Evaluation and/or obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system 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. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

C. Davet Investments; Charles & Lisa Schultz; Anthony & Elizabeth Masitto; and Frank & Laura Wainwright

Lisa Schultz and Elizabeth Masitto were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. None of the others above mentioned were present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned Davet Investments, 9802 Broadway Dr., Auburn Twp.; Charles & Lisa Schultz, 12566 Princeton Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Anthony & Elizabeth Masitto, 12790 Wellswood Tr., Chester Twp.; and Frank & Laura Wainwright, 16855 GAR Hwy., Montville Twp.

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

3701-29-02(E) states: "No person shall discharge, or permit to discharge, treated or untreated sewage, the overflow drainage or contents of a sewage tanks, or other putrescible, impure, or offensive wastes into an abandoned water supply, well, spring, or cistern or into a natural or artificial well, sink hole, crevice, or other opening extending into limestone, sandstone, shale, or other rock formation, or normal ground water table."

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."

3701-29-02(G) (4) states: "When test results indicate that the standards set forth in regulation 3701-29-02(G) (3) are not being met or nuisances are being created, additional treatment devices may be require by the Board of Health." Discussion followed.

**Dr. Bowers moved to table the Administrative Hearing for Anthony & Elizabeth Masitto, 12790 Wellswood Tr., Chester Twp., to the April 20, 2009 Board of Health meeting so that more information may be obtained. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

**Mr. Lang moved that Charles & Lisa Schultz, 12566 Princeton Rd., Huntsburg Twp. be required to immediately pump the septic tanks and have a lot evaluation completed. This case will be re-presented at the April 20, 2009 Board of Health meeting. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote.**

**Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Davet Investments, 9802 Broadway Dr., Auburn Twp. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

**Ms. Eppich moved that Davet Investments, 9802 Broadway Dr., Auburn Twp. be required to obtain the sewage permit and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days**

of receipt of Board order. Failure to do so 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. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Frank & Laura Wainwright, 1855 GAR Hwy., Montville Twp. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Lang moved that Frank & Laura Wainwright, 1855 GAR Hwy., Montville Twp. be required to obtain the sewage permit and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to do so 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. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

#### VIII. Old Business

Ms. Eppich moved 3.09-1 to adopt the Geauga County General Health District Personnel Policy as presented. All other versions are to be rescinded. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Lang moved 3.09-2 to approve the 2010 Geauga County General Health District Budget as presented. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

#### IX. Executive Session

Mr. Lang moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss the Health Commissioner's evaluation and legal updates. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion approved with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes. Meeting reconvened at 10:20 p.m.

#### X. New Business

Ms. Eppich moved 3.09-3 to approve the IAP Budget Revision as presented. Mr. Lang seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 3.09-4 to approve the PHI Budget Revision as presented. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 3.09-5 to approve the CRI Budget Revision as presented. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Lang moved 3.09-6 to approve the WIC Budget Revision as presented. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 3.09-7 to approve the purchase of two automated external defibrillators, and two AED trainers and mannequins at a price not to exceed \$4,800.00. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 3.09-8 to approve the payment to the Ohio Dept. of Health for CFHS Grant Refund/Reimbursement in the amount of \$5,831.80. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Lang moved 3.09-9 to approve the transfer of \$5,831.80 from salary and fringes to Remit to State in the CFHS fund. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Lang moved 3.09-10 to approve a 5% salary increase for Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner effective immediately. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

The Board and Mr. Weisdack expressed their thanks to Rich Lang for his dedication to the Board of Health. Mr. Lang's term on the Board is over and he chose not to seek reappointment due to other obligations. Mr. Lang has been instrumental in moving the Health District forward. He will be missed.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, April 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Lang moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 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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