

Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
March 19, 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 called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:10 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Richard Lang, Mr. J. David Benenati, Dr. Donald Bowers, and Ms. Melanie Eppich. Mrs. Nan Burr joined the meeting during the PHS report.

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: Five others were present. Abraham Cantor, Attorney, was present for Executive Session.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Benenati moved to acknowledge the Notes for the Record from the Budget Workshop, February 15, 2007. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mr. Benenati moved that the minutes from the February 20, 2007 meeting be approved. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, abstain; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.

IV. Financial Report / Current Expenses

Dr. Bowers moved to approve the Current Expenses February 15, 2007 to March 13, 2007. Mr. Benenati seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the new sewage codes are still at the forefront. As of the present date there have been no new permits issued in Geauga County. We have had plans submitted under the new regulations but have been finding problems with calculations on them. There are approximately 4 new systems in process. The staff is still inspecting septic systems installed under the old code.

Mr. Tusick reported on the passing and failing rate of the For Sale of Property septic inspections that were done in the past year. There are four different types of systems that were inspected:

- a.) On lot leaching trench systems that were installed 1985 to present showed 93% passing rate with a 7% failure rate.
- b.) On lot systems with 500 feet of trench installed between 1972 and 1985 show an 85% passing rate with a 15% failure rate.
- c.) Older off lot discharge systems installed between 1950 to about 1967 with a 1000-gallon septic tank and filter bed show a 76% failure rate with 24% passing.
- d.) Other off lot discharging systems installed 1968 - 1972 with 2-1000 gallon septic tanks & sub surface sand filter show a 60% passing rate with a 40% failure rate.

This evaluation data shows that the passing rate of sewage systems in Geauga County is much more than was reported in the NOACA study.

Mr. Weisdack reported that due to the lack of septic inspections at this time, Mr. Shubick's hours will be reduced to 24 hours a week once other staff members are cross trained for his inspections.

VI. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer reported that flu is wide spread throughout Ohio, which is the highest it's been this season. Influenza A and B are now present within the State.

Mrs. Scherer reported on the amended charges that are now in place for adult vaccines. With the payment of the health levy within the county, nursing is checking with the Prosecutor's Office to possibly charge out of county residents a higher fee for vaccine. A \$5.00 charge is already in place for vaccinating out of county children.

Immigration vaccines are supplied by the State for both children and adults, which include a series of 3 tetanus shots, 3 polio shots and 1 MMR. Flu and pneumonia vaccine are given mostly to Medicare clients. Medicare will only re-imburse the Health District at the current rate we charge the public. PHS is looking at raising the charge for the flu vaccine from \$20.00 to \$25.00 for the upcoming 2007 flu season.

The Board agreed that it is justifiable in charging out of county people a nominal fee for vaccines they receive by the Geauga County Health District. Geauga County residents portion is covered by the levy money they pay with their property taxes.

The Public Health Infrastructure for the emergency preparedness program was audited in February by ODH. The Health District fell short of compliance due to lack of staffing along with training of volunteers, nurses and pharmacists. The Health District will be receiving \$17,307.58 to help develop a better preparedness plan. \$5,000.00 would be strictly for volunteer recruitment and setting up a registry. The remainder would be for training and updating supplies needed.

PHS is looking into updating the backup generator that is on site along with the telephone lines and lighting to make the office useable when an emergency situation arises.

A. WIC

The Geauga County WIC program will participate in lead screening of clients funded by the State. WIC clients are considered higher risk for lead, as are the Amish children from the Well Child Clinics due to the age of the housing and high-risk areas that they live in.

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program will be flat funded this summer. There will be no increase in funding for this program, but since Geauga County Health District has been doing this every year we will still get funding for it.

The WIC staff is doing outreach for preschool families. Information packets will be handed out to these families.

B. Health Education

Mrs. Scherer announced that the first week of April is Public Health Week. The theme this year is Emergency Preparedness. A press release will go out and handouts will be distributed at our clinics, libraries and senior centers throughout the County.

VII. Variances

A. Good Earth Excavating/ Frederick Skolaris

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

Mr. Tusick stated that this is a variance request by Good Earth Excavating in behalf of Frederick Skolaris for the property located at 14190 GAR Highway, Hambden. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case). The request involves the section 3701-29-15 of the Ohio Administrative Code. This request is in regards to the household sewage rules, which allows for the installation of holding tanks.

Good Earth is proposing to install 2-1000 gallon septic tanks to be used as holding tanks until the weather permits the installation of the rest of the sewage system. This system will be installed by July 1, 2007.

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the variance. 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. Variance was approved.

VIII Administrative Hearing

A. Rolene Murphy, 7583 Country Lane, Bainbridge

Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Lang and stated his experience. Mrs. Rolene Murphy and her son, Mark Murphy were also sworn in by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a code violation in regards to a malfunctioning sewage treatment system under section 3701-29-07 Paragraph (C)(1) & (C)(3) of the sewage treatment system rules of the Ohio Administrative Code. Mrs. Murphy owns a vacant adjoining lot that could be utilized for construction of a new on lot sewage system. The house now has 5

bedrooms which would require 1500 feet of leach trench on a small lot with severe soils. Discussion followed.

Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Rolene Murphy at 7583 Country Lane, 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.

Mrs. Burr moved that the owner be required to get the necessary property evaluation and obtain the installation and operation permits to install a sewage treatment system within 30 days of receipt of the Board Order. 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.

IX. Executive Session

Mrs. Burr moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss the Health Commissioner's 2006 Evaluation, personnel and pending litigation. 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 10:20 p.m.

X. Old Business

Dr. Bowers moved 3.07-1 to approve the 2nd reading of the proposed fee for O/M Inspections of off-lot sewage disposal systems in the amount of \$150.00. Mrs. Burr seconded the motion. Motion approved with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.

Mrs. Burr moved 3.07-2 to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the OEPA regarding the NPDES permits. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion failed with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, no; Mr. Benenati, no; Dr. Bowers, no; Mrs. Burr, no; and Ms. Eppich, no.

Mrs. Burr moved 3.07-3 to approve the 2008 Geauga County Health budget as presented. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion approved with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Mr. Benenati, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Mrs. Burr, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.

XI. New Business

Mrs. Burr moved 3.07-4 to certify and appropriate additional PHI funds in the amount of \$17,307.58 for the Cities Readiness Initiative. 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 3.07-5 to approve Resolution 1-2007, For Sale of Property Evaluation as presented. 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 3.07-6 to approve the 1st reading of the proposed Hapsite Chemical Water Testing Fee in the amount of \$150.00. 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 3.07-7 to appropriate 2006 Workers Comp funds in the amount of \$15,289.39 to 01-E-W and \$51.23 to 04NN-W. 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.

XII. Other Business

A. Vital Statistics Audit

Mr. Weisdack read a letter from the Ohio Department of Health sent regarding the Vital Statistics audit that was performed in August 2006. Everything was found current and the office secure.

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, April 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Mrs. Burr moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 p.m. Dr. Bowers 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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