

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2008, 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-Pro-Tempore, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:01 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Richard Lang, Ms. Melanie Eppich, and Mr. Timothy Goergen. Dr. Donald Bowers arrived during the sewage update. Mr. J. David Benenati 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: There were two other people present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

**Ms. Eppich moved to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2008 regular meeting. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

IV. Financial Report / Current Expenses

**Mr. Goergen moved to approve the Current Expenses September 13, 2008 to November 12, 2008. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

V. Environmental Health Program Update

A. Sewage Rules Update

We received the final sewage law this morning. Mr. Tusick stated part of the law states that the State must have the rules developed within one year of the law passage. The State is trying to get that requirement removed because they are not sure they can have the rules developed within one year. The law also says that the OEPA cannot require a Board of Health to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Weisdack stated that he would be in contact with Tim Grendell to continue fight certain sections of the proposed law.

VI. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer reported that the flu clinics are finished for this year. Flu vaccine will still be given at the Friday morning clinics at the Health District office. Approximately 1400 doses have been given to date. This number is down from last year which is the trend seen across the state. At the present time, there has been no flu activity reported in Ohio.

The State will be providing the health districts with new KI pills. These pills will be in 65 mg doses. This will eliminate the need for the parents to cut the 130 mg pills in half for the children.

A. WIC

The WIC caseload is still around 900 cases which is high for Geauga County. They see clients on Fridays and have added an extra day per month for Middlefield and is expected to continue to rise.

The WIC staff assisted the Help Me Grow program with their fall party. This is for the children who participate in the Help Me Grow program. It is a culturally sensitive type of Halloween celebration. The children were given healthy treats.

B. Health Education

There is a new initiative to modify the Smoke Free Ohio Law. Mrs. Scherer stated that it looks like it will pass. It will exclude certain family owned businesses and private clubs from the Smoke Free Ohio rules. November 20, 2008 is the Great American Smoke Out Day.

Mrs. Scherer stated that we were notified by the BOCC that all county offices will be closed from noon to 4:30pm on Christmas Eve. Mrs. Scherer asked the Board to consider closing the Health District offices from 8am to 12pm. There would be minimal coverage and there would be no inspections or home visits done on that day.

VII. Administrative Hearings

A. James Kormos

Mr. Kormos was not present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Lang and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by James Kormos located at 8050 Bainbridge Rd., Bainbridge Twp. This case is in regards to the following sections of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations:

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

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) (3 a & b) states: "Sewage effluent quality as measured at the point of discharge in the system shall comply with current effluent standards. (a) Biochemical oxygen demand shall not exceed twenty milligrams per liter; (b) Suspended solids shall not exceed forty milligrams per liter; Fecl coliform- Water samples exceeding 5,000 fecal coliform counts per 100 milliliters in 2 or more samples shall be considered creating a public health nuisance."

3701-29-02(G) (4) states: "When test results indicate that that standards set forth in regulation 3701-29-0(G) (3) are not being met or nuisances are being created, additional treatment devices may be required by the Board of Health." Discussion followed.

This case is in regards to a nuisance complaint. The current system consists of 500 gallon septic tank, tile field and discharges to a tile line that crosses the property. Sewage effluent samples were taken and exceeded the maximum allowable standards. Mr. Weisdack stated that he spoke to Mr. Kormos and he indicated he did not have the funds available to install a new system.

**Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by James Koromos located at 8050 Bainbridge Rd., Bainbridge Twp. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

**Dr. Bowers moved that the owner be required to obtain a sewage permit and install a new sewage disposal system within 30days 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. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

VIII. Old Business

A. Financial Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that it appears there will be enough funding to continue to the end of the year without any more layoffs. Once again, Private Water continues to be very low in revenue.

B. Levy Committee Update

Mr. Weisdack introduced Chris Livers and Dr. Robin Herman. He stated it was due to the dedication of all the levy committee members that helped pass the levy. He stated he wanted to thank everyone of the members for their hard work: Chris Livers, Dr. Robin Herman, Frank Gliha, Dave Benenati, Angie Grysho, Tim Goergen, Herb Shubick, Jim and Judy Simmons and Shawn Powers. He also said that Glen Miller of the Maple Leaf wrote many articles on our levy. There were many other county health departments who had levies on the ballot who did not pass. We were very fortunate to have the support of our residents.

IX. Executive Session

**Ms. Eppich moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal updates. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion approved with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes. Meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m.**

X. New Business

**Dr. Bowers moved 11.08-1 to approve the renewal of the contract with the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

Incentive Merit was not discussed.

Mr. Weisdack stated that he received some suggestions from Mr. Goergen regarding the Personnel Policy. He indicated he would review them and discuss them with the Board at a later time.

**Ms. Eppich moved 11.08-2 to acknowledge the retirement of Helen Hayes, RS, effective October 31, 2008. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

**Ms. Eppich moved 11.08-3 to adopt Resolution 6-2008 honoring Helen Hayes. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

Ms. Eppich moved 11.08-4 to approve the payment of the 2009 AOHC Membership for \$1,032.00. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 11.08-5 to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Indiana Wesleyan University for students in the RN to BSN program to use the Health District for their Community Health practicum, pending prosecutor's approval. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Dr. Bowers moved 11.08-6 to adopt Resolution 7-2008 as presented. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 11.08-7 to approve the transfer of \$5,418.25 from equipment to other expense in the BOH fund. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

Dr. Bowers moved to approve the closing of the Health District offices from 8:00 am to noon on December 24, 2008. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Lang, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.

XI. Other Business

Mr. Weisdack read a letter he received from Karen Russell who lives on Watt Rd. Ms. Russell was under orders to install a new sewage system due to a nuisance. The letter indicated that Ms. Russell had fallen on hard financial times and did not have the funds to put in the system.

After discussion, the Board indicated that they could not show favor for anyone who is having this sort of problem. These cases would have to be referred to the prosecutor and proceed with legal action. The judge will ultimately decide what to do with them. We would have to abide by the judge's orders.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Dr. Bowers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Mr. Goergen 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

a