

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2008, 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 7:01 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Mr. Richard Lang, Ms. Melanie Eppich, and Mr. Timothy Goergen. Dr. Donald Bowers arrived during the Sewage Rules update.

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

Others present: There were seven other people 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 September 15, 2008 regular meeting. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Lang, abstain; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mr. Goergen, yes.**

IV. Financial Report / Current Expenses

**Mr. Lang moved to approve the Current Expenses September 10, 2008 to October 10, 2008. Ms. Eppich 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

The issuance of sewage permits is still low which is causing a financial critical situation. Mr. Weisdack will be watching the budget very closely.

A. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that he has been reviewing the draft rules. It appears that these rules are the same as HB231, which means they will be costly for the homeowners. One change in the rules is the elimination of the local health departments being required to sign an MOU with the Ohio EPA. Mr. Weisdack stated he would continue to fight the rules.

VI. Personal Health Services Update

Mrs. Scherer reported that the flu clinics have started for this year. They have administered approximately 700 doses to date. There are still a more clinics to be held in the community.

We recently received notice from the State that the CFHS grant will be reduced by over \$1,800.00. Mrs. Scherer stated she expects more cuts to come next year.

PHS precepted 18 Kent State University Students this year. The attended clinics as part of their public health course work.

We received an immunization award from Sanofi Pastuer for our Adolescent Immunization Month promotion in conjunction with Lake County Health District.

A. WIC

The WIC caseload is now at 900 and is expected to continue to ruse.

Another contract for Help Me Grow was awarded to Geauga County MR/DD. Their plan is to have a Help Me Grow service coordinator housed part-time at the health district to see some of the WIC clients who may qualify for HMG services.

B. Health Education

No reports for Health Education this month.

VII. Variance

A. Farris Excavating/Tocky Run

Greg Farris was present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Farris Excavating in behalf of Tocky Run for the existing property located at 10390 Wilson Mills Rd., Munson Twp. The request involves section 3701-28-02(C) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which pertains to more than one home on a lot. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case.) Discussion followed.

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

VIII. Administrative Hearings

A. Deborah Jones-Soltis

Mr. & Mrs. Soltis were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Deborah Jones-Soltis located at 8567 Auburn Rd., Chardon 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." Discussion followed.

This case is in regards to a nuisance complaint. The current system consists of 1-1000 gallon septic tanks and 40' of trench. The system serves the main house, a rental unit attached to the main house and a rental unit in a separate building. There are a total of 9 bedrooms between the structures. Sewage effluent samples were taken and exceeded the maximum allowable standards.

**Mr. Lang moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Deborah Jones-Soltis located at 8567 Auburn Rd., Chardon Twp. 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 that the owner be required to obtain a sewage permit or permits and install a new sewage disposal system or systems 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. Thomas Wilson & Jacob Miller

Thomas Wilson and Jacob Miller were not present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a code violation to the property owned by Thomas Wilson, 11892 East Hill Dr., Chester Twp. and Jacob Miller, 16180 Jug St., Burton Twp. This case is in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations that 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." The owners have paid for the For Sale of Property evaluation but never scheduled.

**Mr. Lang moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Thomas Wilson, 11892 East Hill Dr., Chester Twp. and Jacob Miller, 16180 Jug St., Burton 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.**

**Dr. Bowers moved that the owners be required to 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. 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.**

- C. Joseph & Freeman Wengerd, David Mihalik, Martin Mullet, Justin & Emily English, Dina Koucky, Noah Kauffmann & Marie Yoder, Patrick Hatfield, Danny & Sylvia Miller, Michael & Colleen Sattelmaier, Chester & Mary Kurtz, and Ron Kaser .

Justin and Emily English were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. None of the other above-mentioned owners were present. Mr. Weisdack was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this is a code violation to the properties owned by Joseph & Freeman Wengerd, 12940 Bundysburg Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; David Mihalik, 7140 Clay St., Thompson Twp.; Martin Mullet, 15810 Durkee Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Justin & Emily English, 17871 English Dr., Bainbridge Twp.; Dina Koucky, 17530 Haskins Rd., Bainbridge Twp.; Noah Kauffmann & Marie Yoder, 14924 Hayes Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Patrick Hatfield, 12405 Heath Rd., Munson Twp.; Danny & Sylvia Miller, 16398 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp.; Michael & Colleen Sattelmaier, 9372 Morgan Rd., Montville Twp.; Chester & Mary Kurtz, 14765 Patch Rd., Troy Twp.; and Ron Kaser, 17059 Peters Rd., Middlefield Twp. This case is in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations that 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. English explained that they purchased the home through the Sheriff's sale. He stated that they did not have the funds available to put in a new system. The Board explained that he had the option of having the system evaluated first to see if it would pass.

**Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Joseph & Freeman Wengerd, 12940 Bundysburg Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; David Mihalik, 7140 Clay St., Thompson Twp.; Martin Mullet, 15810 Durkee Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Justin & Emily English, 17871 English Dr., Bainbridge Twp.; Dina Koucky, 17530 Haskins Rd., Bainbridge Twp.; Noah Kauffmann & Marie Yoder, 14924 Hayes Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Patrick Hatfield, 12405 Heath Rd., Munson Twp.; Danny & Sylvia Miller, 16398 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp.; Michael & Colleen Sattelmaier, 9372 Morgan Rd., Montville Twp.; Chester & Mary Kurtz, 14765 Patch Rd., Troy Twp.; and Ron Kaser, 17059 Peters Rd., Middlefield 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 Joseph & Freeman Wengerd, 12940 Bundysburg Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; David Mihalik, 7140 Clay St., Thompson Twp.; Martin Mullet, 15810 Durkee Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Justin & Emily English, 17871 English Dr., Bainbridge Twp.; Dina Koucky, 17530 Haskins Rd., Bainbridge Twp.; Noah Kauffmann & Marie Yoder, 14924 Hayes Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Patrick Hatfield, 12405 Heath Rd., Munson Twp.; Danny & Sylvia Miller, 16398 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp.; Michael & Colleen Sattelmaier, 9372 Morgan Rd., Montville Twp.; Chester & Mary Kurtz, 14765 Patch Rd., Troy Twp.; and Ron Kaser, 17059 Peters Rd., Middlefield 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. 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. Old Business

A. Financial Update

Mr. Weisdack stated he is watching the finances very closely. He will be moving money within funds to cover some items. He stated he does not see any more need for layoffs in the near future. Private Water funds are still low due to the lack of building. The Auditor will be requiring the Health District to decertify revenue in Private Water sometime soon. Mr. Weisdack stated he anticipates more tightening of the finances.

B. Levy Committee Update

Mr. Weisdack distributed handouts used for the levy. He reviewed the presentation dates and locations as well as the ads that will run in several local newspapers. There have been many people taking signs to post in their neighborhoods and yards.

X. Executive Session

**Dr. Bowers moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal updates. Mr. Lang 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 9:32 p.m.**

XI. New Business

**Dr. Bowers moved 10.08-1 to approve the contract renewal with the Ohio EPA for the House Bill 110 program, pending prosecutor's approval. 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 10.08-2 to certify and appropriate IAP 2009 funds in the amount of \$34,020.00 pending NOA. 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.**

**Ms. Eppich moved 10.08-3 to approve the IAP 2009 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.**

**Mr. Goergen moved 10.08-4 to approve the CFHS 2009 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 10.08-5 to approve the funds transfers as follows: BOH- \$7,100.00 from Equipment to Other Expense in the amount of \$3,000.00 & \$4,100.00 to Salary & Fringes; Sewage- \$5,000.00 from Equipment and \$6,000.00 from Salaries to Equipment Maintenance in the amount of \$4,000.00 and \$7,000.00 to Other Expense; Food Service- \$1,500.00 from Salary & Fringes to Other Expense; Infectious Waste- \$204.84 from Salary & Fringes to Other Expense; Trailer Parks- \$959.82 from Salary & Fringes to Other Expense; EH Workshops- \$275.76 to BOH. 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.**

Mrs. Gerzeny explained that the County Commissioners accepted an 8.8% increase in health insurance for 2009. They also signed a 2-year contract with Delta Dental. We budgeted a 10% increase when figuring the 2009 budget. The cost of health insurance has actually decreased from 2006 to 2009.

**Dr. Bowers moved 10.08-6 to approve continuing employee contributions to health insurance at the same rate for 2009. 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.**

Mrs. Gerzeny stated that the County Commissioners requested that the Health District change the amount for the insurance waivers to match theirs. This will decrease the amount that our employees get for the waiver.

**Dr. Bowers moved 10.08-7 to approve the change to the health care waiver to \$792.00, single and \$2,088.00, family for full coverage; and \$720.00, single and \$1,884.00 family for medical/prescription only. 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. Goergen moved 10.08-8 to acknowledge the hiring of Meggan Dwyer, RN as Disease Surveillance Specialist at a rate of \$20.50 per hour with a \$.50 increase upon successful completion of 120-day probationary period. This position is contingent upon the continuation of funding of the PHI grant. 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. Goergen moved 10.08-9 to accept the resignation of Donna Carter, RN effective November 14, 2008. 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.**

**Dr. Bowers moved 10.08-10 to approve the advertising and hiring of an RN for communicable disease investigation, staff development, and health district PIO at a rate of pay between \$17.00 and \$19.00 per hour. 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. Weisdack stated that the updated Health District personnel policy will be emailed to the Board for their review. He will be requesting adoption of the updated policy at the November 2008 meeting.

XII. Other Business

There was no other business

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, November 17, 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, **Mr. Lang moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 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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