

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 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 7:03 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Mr. Timothy Goergen, Dr. Donald Bowers, and Ms. Melanie Eppich. Mrs. Christina Livers was not present.

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

Others present: There were no other people present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

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

IV. Financial Report / Current Expenses

**Ms. Eppich moved to approve the Current Expenses August 11, 2009 to September 14, 2009. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

V. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack reported that the stimulus funds that the State distributed to the counties have been received by Community Development. This money was to help replace failing sewage systems. In order to qualify, the homeowner must come up with 25% of the total cost, including permits and must install a drip or mound system. Of the 56 cases submitted, only two qualified. Any system installed using the stimulus funds must be installed by November 1, 2009.

A. Huntsburg Cemetery

Mr. Weisdack stated that a Muslim group has purchased some property in Huntsburg Township for the purpose of a cemetery. This group has contacted Mr. Weisdack to work together to assure that the safety of the groundwater is not compromised. This property is very wet.

There are no health department regulations regarding cemeteries. Mr. Weisdack stated that he cannot prohibit a cemetery from being placed on this property, but expressed concerns over the proposal. He reviewed some of the procedures used by Muslims during their burial process.

Mr. Weisdack indicated that if a concrete vault is used and the top of the vault is six inches above the high water level, there should not be any problem with groundwater contamination. He is awaiting a written plan from the group.

Mark Janezic, RS presented information to the Board about this year's Geauga County Fair. He stated that overall, things went very well. Hand sanitizers and hand wash stations have been setup around the grounds. There also were no major issues with the food vendors.

VI. Personal Health Services Update

A. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The first seasonal flu clinic will be held at the Health District office on September 15, 2009. This will be the first drive-thru clinic. Two more drive-thru clinics will be held in October and will be run by the MRC.

The Health District has received \$140,222.00 for Public Health Emergency Response (PHER). There will be two focus areas addressed with this program. The first is to conduct planning activities to identify and address gaps in existing plans and to initiate implementation for training and education of the workforce in preparation for possible mass vaccinations. The second area will center on increasing the capacity to detect and monitor influenza illness and viruses through multiple pandemic response activities. A budget was presented to the Board for their approval.

Mr. Mix reported that Colleen Brady has been contracted with as the PHER assistant.

B. Nursing

Mr. Mix reported the CDC released results of the 2008 National Immunization Survey. The results show that Ohio has the third highest coverage at 81.8% for all 50 states, with Massachusetts leading at 82.3% followed by Louisiana at 81.9%.

In February, the Board approved repayment of \$5,318.80 to ODH for the CFHS program. ODH believed that the funds were improperly used. We appealed and have recently received notice that our appeal was granted. We do not need to repay ODH.

C. WIC

The WIC caseload was 939 again for August. Mr. Mix asked the Board to consider contracting with a dietitian to fill the void left by an ongoing absence.

D. Health Education

There was no report for Health Education.

VII. Administrative Hearings

A. Michael West, Homer & Martha Yoder, Jean & Jennifer Campbell, Albert & Patricia Hoyt

These cases are based on the failure to have a For Sale of Property Evaluation conducted at the time of property transfer as per Section 3701-29-22 of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations.

3701-29-22(A) "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 any corrective actions(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed."

**Dr. Bowers moved that a code violation exists at the properties owned by Michael West, 15724 Ravenna Rd., Newbury Twp., Home & Martha Yoder, 17170 Reeves Rd., Parkman Twp., Jean & Jennifer Campbell, 17068 Savage Rd., Bainbridge Twp., and Albert & Patricia Hoyt, 8146 Skylyne Ln., Russell Twp. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Ms. Eppich moved that Michael West, 15724 Ravenna Rd., Newbury Twp., Home & Martha Yoder, 17170 Reeves Rd., Parkman Twp., Jean & Jennifer Campbell, 17068 Savage Rd., Bainbridge Twp., and Albert & Patricia Hoyt, 8146 Skylyne Ln., Russell Twp. be required to schedule and complete a For Sale of Property evaluation and/or obtain the necessary permits 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. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

VIII Old Business

A. State Audit Results and Payment

Mr. Weisdack reported that the results from our recent audit by the State Auditor showed no violations. Another invoice for the audit has been received.

**Dr. Bowers moved 9.09-1 to approve the payment to Treasurer of State in the amount of \$2,231.74. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

B. Personnel Policy Revision

**Mr. Goergen moved 9.09-2 to adopt the change to section B of the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy as presented. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

IX. Executive Session

**Mr. Goergen moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 9:04 pm to discuss pending legal case. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes. Meeting reconvened at 9:37 pm.**

X. New Business

**Mr. Goergen moved 9.09-3 to approve the contract with Christine Hippley, RN for nursing services. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Mr. Goergen moved 9.09-4 to approve the contract with LuAnn Anderson, LD for dietitian services for no more than 24 hours per week. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Ms. Eppich moved 9.09-5 to approve the contract with Colleen Brady for services working under the PHER H1N1 grant. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Ms. Eppich moved 9.09-6 to approve the renewal of the national Retail Data Monitor (NRDM) agreement with the University of Pittsburgh to collect data for epidemiological use. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Mr. Goergen moved 9.09-7 to approve the PHER Initial Budget as presented. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Mr. Goergen moved 9.09-8 to approve the first reading of the proposed Food Service/Retail Food Establishment fees as presented. Dr. Bowers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

**Ms. Eppich moved 9.09-9 to approve the purchase of a vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.00. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Dr. Bowers, yes; and Ms. Eppich, yes.**

XI. Other Business

The County Commissioner's have notified Mr. Weisdack that the offices will close at 12:00 pm on December 24, 2009 and that means the health district will be closed as well.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held October 19, 2009 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 10:02 p.m. Mrs. Livers 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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