

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2012, 7:00 p.m.  
Geauga County Health District Office  
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

Mr. Timothy Goergen, President Pro-Tempore, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, Mrs. Christina Livers, Dr. Janet O'Hara, and Mr. David Gragg. Mr. J. David Benenati was not present.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner; Michael Tusick, Registered Sanitarian; and Christine Pintchuk, Nursing Director.

Others present: There were no others present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III Approval of Minutes

**Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the July 16, 2012 regular Board of Health meeting. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

**Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses July 13, 2012 to August 15, 2012. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. General Information

Mr. Weisdack stated that the rabies baiting has been scheduled for August 24 – September 7, 2012. It will cover northeast Ohio, northwest Pennsylvania and a portion of West Virginia.

There have been 15 cases of West Nile Virus in Ohio. Eleven of those patients have been hospitalized. Mr. Weisdack stated that news releases have been distributed to the media to help educate residents how to prevent contracting West Nile Virus.

There are 79 human cases of Swine Flu in Ohio at this time. Mr. Weisdack has provided information to the Geauga County Fair Board to help keep the visitors at the fair safe.

Mr. Weisdack briefly reviewed the report of the number of sewage permits issued for July.

As previously mentioned, The Manufactured Home Park Commission is taking over the Manufactured Home Park program beginning 2013. The local health districts currently handle this program. The commission has said that they would reimburse the local health districts to do the inspections, but there has been no answer what the reimbursement would be. Mr. Weisdack stated that the staff spends a lot of time on this program. He

stated if it is less than what we currently get through licensing fees, it would not cover the cost of doing the inspections.

Mr. Tusick reported he attended a meeting with ODH and OEPA representatives about NPDES systems. ODH and OEPA both said that the local health districts are responsible for making sure that homeowners comply with the requirements of the NPDES permits regardless of whether the MOU was signed. They also said that there are approximately 20 health districts who have not signed the MOU with OEPA this time.

Mark Stumpf from OEPA stated he has no problems with Geauga County and the NPDES permits and thought that we were doing a good job with our sewage program.

Mr. Weisdack stated that OEPA is aware that 61% of the systems that are designed based on their criteria are not meeting their standards. He stated he anticipates the homeowner will be forced to pay for changes to the system to meet the standards.

b. Solid & Infectious Waste and Construction & Demolition Debris Survey

Mr. Weisdack reported that he has received notification of the results of the recent survey for the Solid & Infectious Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris Programs. The Geauga County Health District was found to be in substantial compliance and remains on the approved list.

c. Strategic Solutions Imaging Proposal

Our current file system is almost to capacity and was discontinued so we cannot purchase more shelving. Mr. Weisdack reported that it would cost between \$60,000-70,000.00 to purchase a new one.

Information was provided to the Board regarding a proposal to electronically store the property files in Environmental Health. Mr. Mix has been in communication with Strategic Solutions about providing this service to the health district. Electronically storing our records could allow the public to have access to the information if we choose. This would also reduce the amount of time the clerical staff spends looking for files when a resident requests them and free them up to complete other tasks.

Mr. Weisdack stated that all public record rules would be followed. He asked the Board to review the proposal and provide feedback.

Mrs. Livers asked who owned the company and if they were local. Mr. Weisdack stated he did not know, but could find out. She expressed her concern about the records being secure once they leave the health district offices. Who will be responsible for verifying the files are correct as scanned? Mrs. Livers also asked about the age of the information being scanned. How far back in time would we go? Mr. Weisdack stated his understanding would be just the latest permit information, but he has questions about other information that may be pertinent to that property that is older. Mrs. Livers asked if we would still only charge \$.05 per copy to the public. She also would like to see some references for the company as well as an opinion from the prosecutor's office. Mrs. Livers asked what would happen if this business goes out of business or their server goes down.

Mr. Goergen stated he would like to see a digital system, which would allow changes to the electronic file from the field when an inspector is doing a site visit. He stated he would like to see something more permanent. He would also like to know if the company is ISO certified.

Dr. O'Hara stated she had strong concerns about the records leaving the office and the possibility of something happening to them.

Mr. Weisdack said he would like to have a few files scanned to see how they really look as electronic files.

d. Public Health Futures Report

This report says the State would downsize the number of health departments within Ohio. This includes the consolidation of health departments as well. The report also strongly urges accreditation. They will be discussing this issue at the health commissioner's conference in September. The reason they are pushing these issues is because the grants from the CDC are becoming very competitive. If a health department is not accredited, they will not be eligible to obtain the grants.

Mr. Weisdack stated he is very concerned that the Geauga County Health District will be forced into consolidation and regionalization.

The Board was asked to adopt a resolution to collaborate on a study with Lake County Health District. This is the third round of funding. We did not make it through the first and second rounds of funding.

VI. Administrative Hearings

- a. Richard Perin, Reed Ruthenburg, Jeff Jordan, Daniel Schaal, Brian Skok, Kevin Smealie, Dan Brew, Elia Milite, Mike Suglia, and Freeman Byler

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

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by Richard Perin, 11960 Africa Acres Dr., Chester Twp., Reed Ruthenburg, 10022 Bell St., Newbury Twp., Jeff Jordan, 6051 Dewey Rd., Thompson Twp., Daniel Schaal, 45000 Fairmount Blvd., Hunting Valley, Brian Skok, 18405 Geauga Lake Rd., Bainbridge Twp., Kevin Smealie, 16180 Hart Rd., Montville Twp., Dan Brew, 17162 Reynolds Rd., Parkman Twp., Elia Milite, 8834 S. Spring Valley Dr., Bainbridge Twp., Mike Suglia, 14954 Stillwater Dr., Russell Twp., and Freeman Byler, 15543 Tavern Rd., Burton Twp.

These cases are 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.

**Mrs. Livers moved that a code violation exists on the properties owned by Richard Perin, 11960 Africa Acres Dr., Chester Twp., Reed Ruthenburg, 10022 Bell St., Newbury Twp., Jeff Jordan, 6051 Dewey Rd., Thompson Twp., Daniel Schaal, 45000 Fairmount Blvd., Hunting Valley, Brian Skok, 18405 Geauga Lake Rd., Bainbridge Twp., Kevin Smealie, 16180 Hart Rd., Montville Twp., Dan Brew, 17162 Reynolds Rd., Parkman Twp., Elia Milite, 8834 S. Spring Valley Dr., Bainbridge Twp., Mike Suglia, 14954 Stillwater Dr., Russell Twp., and Freeman Byler, 15543 Tavern Rd., Burton Twp. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

**Dr. O'Hara moved that Richard Perin, 11960 Africa Acres Dr., Chester Twp., Reed Ruthenburg, 10022 Bell St., Newbury Twp., Jeff Jordan, 6051 Dewey Rd., Thompson Twp., Daniel Schaal, 45000 Fairmount Blvd., Hunting Valley, Brian Skok, 18405 Geauga Lake Rd., Bainbridge Twp., Kevin Smealie, 16180 Hart Rd., Montville Twp., Dan Brew, 17162 Reynolds Rd., Parkman Twp., Elia Milite, 8834 S. Spring Valley Dr., Bainbridge Twp., Mike Suglia, 14954 Stillwater Dr., Russell Twp., and Freeman Byler, 15543 Tavern Rd., Burton 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 these orders will result in referral to the prosecutor's office for legal action. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

VII. Personal Health Services Update

Mr. Mix was not present.

- a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Weisdack stated that a Perry Nuclear Power Plant Dry Run Exercise would be held on August 22, 2012. The actual exercise will happen in October. This is a tri-county drill.

b. Nursing Services

Chris Pintchuk stated that the food borne incident that was reported at July's meeting has been completed. There were no deaths because of this incident. The food sample testing results were found to be inconclusive. This may have been due to the food samples being too old.

The nursing staff are busy making changes that are necessary due to changes in the way children's vaccines are funded. There were legislative changes that will not allow the health district to give free services to people who have health insurance or Medicaid.

The nurses will be addressing the teachers of the forty-six Amish schools in the county. They will be reminding them that hand washing is very important as well as other general health topics.

Flu season is gearing up. The first shipment of vaccine was received lately. Clinics will be held in many different locations.

c. WIC

The Board was asked to approve the WIC budget revision.

d. Community Health Assessments and State Health Assessments

There was no report for Community and State Health Assessments.

VIII. Old Business

Mr. Weisdack, Mr. Tusick and Susan Wieland, Assistant Prosecutor met with the representatives from the Muslim Cemetery recently. They wanted to discuss why the Geauga County Health District singled them out and discriminated against them over their cemetery plans. Mr. Weisdack explained to them that he was asked to look into the issue by the township trustees and was based on environmental impact. There is a neighbor in close proximity that has a dug well. The majority of the property is designated as wetlands by the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Weisdack told the representatives that he recommends that they must use vaults with sealed lids. Mr. Weisdack sent them a letter stating the conditions.

IX. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session this month.

X. New Business

**Mrs. Livers moved 8.12-a to approve the appointment of Chris Pintchuk to the Family First Council for a period of three years, to begin retroactively from June 14, 2011. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

**Mrs. Livers moved 8.12-b to approve the appointment of Chris Pintchuk to the Community Action Board for a period of three years, to begin retroactively from June 14, 2011. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

**Mrs. Livers moved 8.12-c to approve the WIC Budget Revision in an amount not to exceed \$215,606.00. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes;**

Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 8.12-d to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with University Hospitals Geauga Campus Pharmacy Dept. for emergency storage of vaccine. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 8.12-e to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Kent State University Geauga Campus to be a Point of Distribution (POD) for vaccine in an emergency. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 8.12-f to Adopt Resolution 4-2012- Intent to Participate in Lake-Geauga Public Health System & Government Innovation Study which will allow the participation of the Geauga County Health District in the study. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 8.12-g to approve the payment to Public Entities Pool of Ohio for liability insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 at a rate of \$21,362.00 per year; \$4,000,000.00 at a rate of \$22,520.00 per year; \$5,000,000.00 at a rate of \$23,280.00 per year; or \$6,000,000.00 at a rate of \$23,829.00 per year. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. The Board discussed whether they wanted to increase the amount of liability insurance from the \$3,000,000.00 coverage we currently have. After discussion, Mrs. Livers withdrew the previous motion and moved 8.12-g to approve the payment to Public Entities Pool of Ohio for liability insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 at a rate of \$21,362.00 per year. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Dr. O'Hara, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, September 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Weisdack, R.S., M.A., M.P.H.  
Secretary of the Board

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