

Geauga County General Health District  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2012, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner, Daniel Mix, Personal Health Services Director and Michael Tusick, Registered Sanitarian.

Others present: John and Sylvia Debick, Katherine Ignaut, Robert Tricamo, Steve Tricamo, and Albert Miller were 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 for the April 16, 2012 regular Board of Health meeting. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, abstain; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

**Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses April 12, 2012 to May 16, 2012. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. General Information

Mr. Weisdack reported that HB509 has passed the House and is now waiting approval by the Senate. This bill has wording in it, which will eliminate the Public Health Council (PHC). Mr. Weisdack stated he feels that the PHC is very important to the residents and the local health districts. Health districts can take any concerns about proposed rules to the PHC for their review and decision. Without the Public Health Council, the health districts will not have a voice against any rules that are written. Mr. Weisdack stated he spoke to someone within the PHC and he has been informed that the section eliminating PHC has been tabled at this time.

Another item within HB509 has to do with the ability of the county commissioners being allowed to charge the local health districts rent. Mr. Weisdack spoke to the commissioners a few years ago and at that time, they said they would not charge the Geauga County Health District rent. He recently spoke to the county administrator and expressed his concern about the rent issue. The county administrator along with a county commissioner indicated that it was not their intent to charge the health district rent. Mr. Weisdack stated that it would be a big problem with the budget if we were forced to pay rent.

The American College of Physicians have written a position paper in which they state if public health is not funded, there will be a tremendous turmoil within the communities throughout the entire nation.

The plaque is ready for Ms. Eppich. Mr. Weisdack will contact her to schedule a date to present it to her.

There are still only two positive rabies cases and they are located in Trumbull County.

b. Fracking Regulations

A member of the Ohio Dept of Health has asked Mr. Weisdack to sit on a developmental discussion board on how residents can protect themselves. Mr. Weisdack stated he could provide information about what to do prior to drilling near the property with the Board's approval. Most likely, this would require a few trips to Columbus for meetings. The Board agreed that Mr. Weisdack should sit on the developmental board, if officially asked.

VI. Variance

a. The Potter's Company/Albert Miller

Robert and Steve Tricamo were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Albert Miller was present and affirmed by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by The Potter's Company in behalf of Albert Miller for the property located at 17737 Mayfield Rd., Huntsburg Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(C) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states, "Each household sewage disposal system shall serve one dwelling on an individual lot and shall be properly maintained and operated by the owners. All the sewage from the dwelling shall discharge into the system." and section 3701-29-10(D) which states: "Lots with a 0-2% slope cannot install a leaching trench system." (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

**Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

VII. Administrative Hearings

a. John & Laura Hufgard, Welcome Home of Northeast Ohio, Davet Investments, LLC, Gary Curan, Melvin & Ada Kauffman, Anthony Paciorek, Louis Soplata, Kyle & Elizabeth Johnson, Rodney Kaser, Bruce Hunter, Peter & Betty Miller, Mobasseri Keyhan Trustee, Theresa Jarem, Davet Investments, John Konchan, Raymond Gottliebowski, Liese Toohig & Donald Glasscock, JND Holdings, and Richard Greaves

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

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by John & Laura Hufgard, 10410 Auburn Rd., Chardon Twp., Welcome Home of Northeast Ohio, 6134 Clay St., Thompson Twp., Davet Investments, LLC, 9728 Cleveland Dr., Auburn Twp., Gary Curan, 8444 Cloveridge Rd., Russell Twp., Melvin & Ada Kauffman, 17766 Huntley Rd., Huntsburg Twp., Anthony Paciorek, 8552 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp., Louis Soplata, 14707 Longview Dr., Newbury Twp., Kyle & Elizabeth Johnson, 7581 Oak Hill Dr., Chester Twp., Rodney Kaser, 17059 Peters Rd., Middlefield Twp., Bruce Hunter, 11560 Music St., Newbury Twp., Peter & Betty Miller, 17170 Reeves Rd., Parkman Twp., Mobasseri Keyhan Trustee, 8430 Riverside Dr., Russell Twp., Theresa Jarem, 11286 Sperry Rd., Chester Twp., Davet Investments, 13757 Sperry Rd., Russell Twp., John Konchan, 9799 Stuckey Ln., Chardon Twp., Raymond Gottliebowski, 10075 Thwing Rd., Chardon Twp., Liese Toohig & Donald Glasscock, 14308 View Dr., Newbury Twp., JND Holdings, 9074 Washington St., Bainbridge Twp., Richard Greaves, 9871 Welk Rd., Chardon 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 John & Laura Hufgard, 10410 Auburn Rd., Chardon Twp., Welcome Home of Northeast Ohio, 6134 Clay St., Thompson Twp., Davet Investments, LLC, 9728 Cleveland Dr., Auburn Twp., Gary Curan, 8444 Cloveridge Rd., Russell Twp., Melvin & Ada Kauffman, 17766 Huntley Rd., Huntsburg Twp., Anthony Paciorek, 8552 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp., Louis Soplata, 14707 Longview Dr., Newbury Twp., Kyle & Elizabeth Johnson, 7581 Oak Hill Dr., Chester Twp., Rodney Kaser, 17059 Peters Rd., Middlefield Twp., Bruce Hunter, 11560 Music St., Newbury Twp., Peter & Betty Miller, 17170 Reeves Rd., Parkman Twp., Mobasser Keyhan Trustee, 8430 Riverside Dr., Russell Twp., Theresa Jarem, 11286 Sperry Rd., Chester Twp., Davet Investments, 13757 Sperry Rd., Russell Twp., John Konchan, 9799 Stuckey Ln., Chardon Twp., Raymond Gottliebowski, 10075 Thwing Rd., Chardon Twp., Liese Toohig & Donald Glasscock, 14308 View Dr., Newbury Twp., JND Holdings, 9074 Washington St., Bainbridge Twp., Richard Greaves, 9871 Welk Rd., Chardon Twp. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

**Mr. Goergen moved that John & Laura Hufgard, 10410 Auburn Rd., Chardon Twp., Welcome Home of Northeast Ohio, 6134 Clay St., Thompson Twp., Davet Investments, LLC, 9728 Cleveland Dr., Auburn Twp., Gary Curan, 8444 Cloveridge Rd., Russell Twp., Melvin & Ada Kauffman, 17766 Huntley Rd., Huntsburg Twp., Anthony Paciorek, 8552 Kinsman Rd., Russell Twp., Louis Soplata, 14707 Longview Dr., Newbury Twp., Kyle & Elizabeth Johnson, 7581 Oak Hill Dr., Chester Twp., Rodney Kaser, 17059 Peters Rd., Middlefield Twp., Bruce Hunter, 11560 Music St., Newbury Twp., Peter & Betty Miller, 17170 Reeves Rd., Parkman Twp., Mobasser Keyhan Trustee, 8430 Riverside Dr., Russell Twp., Theresa Jarem, 11286 Sperry Rd., Chester Twp., Davet Investments, 13757 Sperry Rd., Russell Twp., John Konchan, 9799 Stuckey Ln., Chardon Twp., Raymond Gottliebowski, 10075 Thwing Rd., Chardon Twp., Liese Toohig & Donald Glasscock, 14308 View Dr., Newbury Twp., JND Holdings, 9074 Washington St., Bainbridge Twp., Richard Greaves, 9871 Welk Rd., Chardon 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. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

b. Kevin & Cathleen Cusak, John & Sylvia Debick, and Jason & Katherine Ignaut

John and Sylvia Debick and Katherine Ignaut were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again and stated his experience. Mr. Weisdack was also sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by Kevin & Cathleen Cusak, 54 Maple Hill Dr., S. Russell Village, John & Sylvia Debick, 60 Maple Hill Dr., S. Russell Village and Jason & Katherine Ignaut, 64 Maple Hill Dr., S. Russell Village.

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.

This area was scheduled for sanitary sewers in 2008, but some property owners did not want the sewers so it was put on hold. The property owners now are considering sanitary sewers again.

**Mrs. Livers moved to approve a moratorium until January 1, 2013 on any action to be taken on the septic system issue at the properties owned by Kevin & Cathleen Cusak, 54 Maple Hill Dr., S. Russell Village, John & Sylvia Debick, 60 Maple Hill Dr., S. Russell Village and Jason & Katherine Ignaut, 64 Maple Hill Dr., S. Russell Village. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Mix reported that the Geauga County Health District has been approved for \$23,327.00 in additional funds. These funds will be used for salaries and to enable us to have four POD Go Kits and to update the current kit.

Some of the staff will be participating in several drills this summer beginning with a Regional Medical Response System (RMRS) conference. They will hear presentations on disaster mortuary response, Ricin, use of social media during disasters, criminal evidence preservation and practical applications of multi-agency responses.

b. Nursing Services

Mr. Mix stated attended the Medicaid/Insurance Billing and Compliance Seminar hosted by the Ohio Public Health Association on April 24, 2012. The presenter described the steps necessary to be compliant with new federal regulations. Under the Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act, federal funds cannot be used to provide free services to clients who have health insurance or Medicaid. The Geauga County Health District will need to be credentialed to bill clients. This will involve getting the medical director and his alternate approved by Medicaid, Medicare and local insurance providers by October 2013.

c. WIC

The caseload for April was 827, a slight increase over March. There are several reasons for the decrease in caseload. One reason is that teen pregnancy rates have been trending downwards. Food stamp money (SNAP) was increased which resulted in some families dropping WIC services. Caseload has continued to trend downward with food packages changes i.e.: the coupons are not as easy to use and participants miss some of the eliminated foods-specifically cheese. The WIC supervisor also feels that since they have discontinued sending out appointment reminders, they have experienced an increase in the no-show rate. They have since resumed the reminder mailings. The State WIC department does not want local offices to conduct outreach to eliminate waiting lists to get on the WIC program.

The WIC program is still in danger of further cuts in funding. The Board had a brief discussion on what staffing levels would be if further cuts happened. Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Mix indicated that the WIC staff have already made some decisions on how to handle the cuts.

d. Community Health Assessments and State Health Assessments

The final Community Health Assessment report was presented on April 18, 2012. Christina Livers was at the presentation. Approximately 40 people attended from a variety of agencies. The CEO of University Hospital along with three other UH staff members attended also. The attendees broke up into groups to come up with priorities that should be addressed in Geauga County. A health improvement plan will be developed to address the priorities that were determined.

Mr. Mix stated that small workgroup meetings began in May for subcommittees of the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) planning committee. These include chronic disease, infant mortality and mental health/addiction.

c. Continuous Quality Improvement/PHAB Accreditation

The CQI committee has been using quality improvement tools to address website and in-house form updates. We have identified the bottleneck as being untrained staff and lack of policy and procedures. An improvement plan is being prepared including additional Microsoft Word and Excel training for staff. Procedures are also being created that will identify who will update forms and the website.

IX. Old Business

a. 2013 Health District Budget Commission Meeting

Mr. Weisdack met with the budget commission recently to get the 2013 Geauga County Health District budget approved. The budget commission approved the budget.

X. Executive Session

There was no reason to adjourn for Executive Session.

XI. New Business

Mr. Weisdack stated he is asking for salary increases for the staff from 2% to 5%. He explained the process for deciding the percentage each employee would get. There are a couple of employees who are at the top of their salary range. Their salary increase will be based on a merit increase.

**Mrs. Livers moved 5.12-a to approve salary increases for the health district staff based on the health commissioner's recommendation. Increases will be effective with Payroll #11. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.**

XII. Other Business

In April, the sewage committee held a meeting to discuss the vertical separation distance. Mr. Weisdack stated that he and a few other health commissioners would like the local health districts to set their own vertical separation distance for their county.

During the meeting, Wes Vins, Columbiana County Health Commissioner, tried to address several issues about the isolation distance. ODH would not give him a straight answer. What ODH is proposing would virtually eliminate the use of trenches in Geauga County. Mr. Weisdack stated he would fight to allow trench installation in Geauga County. ODH has been asked to hold another committee meeting to discuss this issue.

VIII. Meetings

**The regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, June 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.**

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, **Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

a