

Geauga County General Health District
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Geauga County Health District Office
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

I. Call to Order

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

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, Mrs. Christina Livers, Pro-Tempore, Mr. David Gragg and Dr. Denis Rubal were present.

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

Others present: Katherine Jacob, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Dennis Wolcott

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the minutes for the December 21, 2015 Board of Health meeting. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, December 18, 2015 to January 14, 2016. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

V. Show Cause Hearing

a. Dennis Wolcott/Wolcott Septic Tank Cleaning

Dennis Wolcott was present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick and Mr. Weisdack were also sworn in and stated their experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this was a Show Cause Hearing regarding Dennis Wolcott/Wolcott Septic Tank Cleaning Inc., Registration Number 30, 13781 GAR Hwy., Hambden Twp.

This case involves infractions regarding the following: Rule 40 C.F.R. 503 as outlined under the Federal USEPA. Ohio Department of Health Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29 (01-26) Sewage Treatment System Rules, Section 3767 (Nuisance) of the Ohio Revised Code. This case pertains to the illegal discharge of septage onto the surface of the ground. Discussion followed.

Mr. Weisdack gave background information regarding the case and what was observed after receiving a complaint. He explained that samples were taken from groundwater at the site and the results showed elevated levels of E. Coli and Fecal Coliform bacteria. The levels were higher than the maximum allowable. This discharge affects two other properties in addition to Mr. Wolcott's property.

During a site visit to the property afterwards, it appeared that some of the discharge had been cleaned up. Mr. Weisdack provided pictures for the Board to review. He indicated that he spoke to USEPA. That agency has allowed the Board of Health to have jurisdiction over this issue.

Mr. Goergen asked Mr. Wolcott if he agreed with the facts that were presented. He indicated he did agree.

Mr. Goergen explained that even though USEPA stated that the Geauga County Board of Health can handle this case, at any time in the future, they could overrule the Board's decision. Mr. Goergen explained that the Board will be adjourning for Executive Session to discuss the case with legal counsel. He also stated that the case would be rendered a decision at the Board meeting in February.

Mr. Goergen asked Mr. Wolcott if he had information to provide. Mr. Wolcott stated he was rinsing out his truck throughout the summer. He had stopped doing the rinsing before the complaint was made. He stated that he knows he shouldn't have done it.

The Board asked for dump receipt forms for his regular pumpings. Mr. Wolcott spoke with the neighboring property owners. He indicated that he had spoken to the pastor of the church. Mr. Wolcott will be meeting with the church board in about 3 weeks. The pastor indicated that he forgave Mr. Wolcott. Mr. Wolcott has not spoken to the other property owner, but plans to in the near future.

Mr. Wolcott said that he has been working to clean up the area. He has also applied lime to the affected area. He plans to put in topsoil once the ground firms up. At this time, it is too wet to get back to that area. He provided receipts for the lime that he used. Dr. Rubal felt that the amount of lime that was used was not enough.

Mrs. Livers suggested samples be taken from the site again. It was also suggested that the wells in the area be tested also. Ms. Jacob suggested that the stream should be tested as well.

Mr. Goergen explained to Mr. Wolcott that the Board was going to enter into Executive Session to talk to the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. He also stated that he needed to provide the receipts as discussed previously.

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:58 pm on the matter of potential litigation. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes. The meeting reconvened at 8:31 pm.

Mrs. Livers moved to continue the discussion with legal counsel at a special meeting, February 8, 2016 at 4:00 pm at 470 Center St., Chardon, Ohio. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

The Board took a five minute break.

VI. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Swimming Pool Program Survey

Mr. Weisdack reported that he has received notice that the Geauga County Health District passed the most recent Swimming Pool survey. He provided the report to the Board for review.

b. Sewage Rules

Senator Ecklund recently asked Mr. Weisdack to give testimony in support of his SB118. The Board indicated that they did not have any issue with Mr. Weisdack providing testimony.

b. General Information

The director of Ohio Department of Health will be addressing the regional AOHC groups. This will be in regards to accreditation.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and types of septic permits that have been issued to date. He expressed his concern with that the majority of those permits are for NPDES systems.

Mr. Weisdack stated that the budget process has begun. He asked the Board for dates for the Board Budget Workshop.

VII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff attended the MMRS, which is planning for the 2016 National Republican Convention.

The staff are taking the lead in the Geauga County Healthcare Coalition. This group will be made up of representatives from Holly Hill, Burton Healthcare, Middlefield Care Center, DDC, and UH Geauga Medical Center. The coalition will meet quarterly and will be planning for an organized response during a disaster according to the County EOP.

b. Disease Surveillance

The disease count for December was 23 with one person hospitalized for flu. Flu activity is down statewide.

c. Nursing Services

During the month of December, the nursing staff provided two Amish Well Child Clinics, 4 children and adolescent immunization clinics, 3 Friday Morning Adult clinics, and four Senior Center clinics. Included were visits for 25 children at the well child clinics, 266 vaccinations given to 89 children, 23 adult immunizations, 107 BP and 2 TB tests. The nurses also provided vision screenings that resulted in referrals for glasses for 24 children. They also conducted 3 maternal/ newborn visits and seven BCMH home visits.

Mr. Mix stated that the nursing director has completed the evaluating of staffing requirements. In response to the findings, the Board was asked to approve the advertising and hiring of a public health nurse. The two staff nurses are eligible for retirement and another nurse should be hired to begin the training process.

The Board was asked to approve the advertising and hiring of a PHS clerk to replace the recent person who retired.

d. WIC

The WIC caseload for December was 735.

Mr. Mix stated that Geauga WIC provided mentoring to a Kent State University graduate student from the dietetics program.

The Board was asked to approve a contract with Mara Uquccini as a WIC peer helper from February 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

e. Administration

The Board was asked to approve a resolution asking the Auditor to create a fund to administer the For Sale of Property program.

Mr. Mix stated that ODH will no longer provide the local health departments internet access free of charge. After review, it was decided that the cost outweighed the service. He said that he has negotiated with the Geauga County Auditor for their office to provide these services. The services include backup, archiving, email and web hosting. The first step toward the changeover will begin after President's Day.

f. Accreditation

Now that the Ohio Department of Health is accredited, the director of ODH has made it clear and certain that all local health departments in Ohio must become accredited by 2020 or face one of several alternatives. One of the alternatives includes being merged with an accredited health department. ODH has removed all funding to the local health districts that was used for accreditation.

Mr. Mix stated that the health district would have to hire two to three additional staff members to prepare for accreditation. He also stated that more emphasis would have to initiate new programs for childhood obesity/physical inactivity and tobacco programs.

In addition to adding new programs, a new community health assessment must be completed every 5 years. This would mean that the assessment needs to be done in 2016 to be distributed in 2017. As done in the past, we will contract with the Hospital Council of NW Ohio to conduct the survey and produce the assessment. The cost will be slightly higher than the one done in 2011, but not excessively higher.

Mr. Mix stated that he feels that the Geauga County Health District is on the right track to be ready to apply in 2017.

Mr. Mix indicated that quality improvement training for the staff would be implemented soon.

VIII. Old Business

a. Resolution 2016-1 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Agreement

Mrs. Livers moved 1.16.a to adopt Resolution 2016-1- Authorizing the Health Commissioner to enter into an agreement with the Ohio EPA as required of the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

IX. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 1.16-b to approve the advertising and hiring of a PHS Secretary within the approved salary range. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 1.16-c to approve the advertising and hiring of a Public Health Nurse within the approved salary range. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 1.16-d to adopt Resolution 2016-2 authorizing the Auditor to create an Environmental Health Appropriation to separate For Sale of Property revenue and expenses from the Sewage fund. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

Dr. Rubal moved 1.16-e to approve the contract with Mara Uquccini as a WIC Peer Helper beginning February 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016 at a rate of \$12.50 per hour. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

X. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Health Commissioner's Evaluation at 9:18 pm. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes. The Board reconvened at 10:21 pm.

Mr. Goergen moved to approve the salary increase for Robert Weisdack at a rate of 3% effective the first pay of 2016. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Dr. Rubal, yes.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business.

XII. Meetings

Budget Workshop – date to be determined

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

Annual HDAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 7:30 pm 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, **Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Rubal seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

a