

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
Geauga Public Health Office
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

1. Call to Order

Mr. David Gragg, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 5:17 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. David Gragg, President, Mr. Richard Piraino, Pro-Tem, Mrs. Catherine Whitright, Dr. Patricia Levan, and Ms. Lynn Roman.

Staff members present: Thomas Quade, Health Commissioner, David Sage, Director of Environmental Health, Dr. Christine Wyers, Director of Nursing, Alta Wendell, Chief of Administration, Dr. Brad Moritz, Medical Director, and Karolyn Johnson, Fiscal Coordinator.

Others present: Adam Litke, Financial Consultant.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Mrs. Whitright moved to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2019 regular meeting. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Current Expense and Financial Reports

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the Current Expense and Financial Reports, April 4, 2019 to May 14, 2019. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board was provided with a copy of the report that was presented at the Budget Commission meeting earlier in the day. Mr. Litke reported that at the meeting, the Budget Commission members stated that they were impressed in how the health district has improved. The Budget Commission approved the 2020 budget with only minor questions. Mr. Gragg and Mr. Piraino attended the meeting and concurred that the meeting went very well. Mr. Piraino thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Litke and Mrs. Johnson recently attended public records training. There were other Geauga County agency heads at the training also.

Mr. Litke, Mrs. Wendell and Mrs. Johnson will be traveling to Columbus to assist in setting up statewide training for new finance directors. There has been no official training for some time and it is truly needed.

5. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage reported that he received a letter from the Ohio Department of Agriculture stating that Geauga Public Health is back on approved status for the food program. Frank Varga, Amanda Hill and Mia Kruggel did a great job. They are also working on the SOGs for the food program.

Administrative Hearings will begin again at the June regular meeting. Mr. Sage stated that it would be limited to 10 per meeting. Most of the hearings will be regarding the For Sale of Property program. Mr. Sage briefly explained the process.

There is a new policy for the Solid Waste District for the next 10-year plan. It now will go to the Ohio EPA for a 90-day review. The Solid Waste District location in Warren has new hours to accommodate more residents. They are building a new facility in Geauga County and hope to have it finished by November 2019.

6. Population Health Update

Dr. Wyers stated she has received approximately 45 resumes for the full-time public health nurse position. She will begin scheduling interviews soon.

Dr. Wyers and Rachel McDade attended a community service expo in Bainbridge. Even though there was not much community attendance, Dr. Wyers stated that she was able to connect with some agency representatives that she had not been able to meet with.

Approximately 250 responses have been received back for the Community Health Assessment survey at the beginning of May. Another round of surveys will be sent out with the hope to get at least a total of 400 or more.

Mr. Quade, Dr. Wyers and Dr. Moritz attended the OPHA Conference. Mr. Quade received a lifetime achievement award from OPHA. A news release was distributed to the media announcing this honor.

Dr. Wyers received \$4000.00 for a pilot program focusing on the elderly in the community. The funding will be used to provide a nurse visit for a safety assessment. She will be working with the Department on Aging, who then can install grab bars for any resident over the age of 60. If successful, there other grants that could also be used in conjunction with the program.

Mr. Gragg recognized the good work the Dr. Wyers has done since she began her employment with GPH.

7. Old Business

a. Board of Health By-laws Amendment

Mr. Quade provided edits to the by-laws that had been discussed at a previous meeting. He explained what modifications were made. The Board discussed the by-laws and suggested other edits.

Ms. Roman moved 5.20.19-a to adopt the 2019 amended Board of Health By-laws. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Other Business

Dr. Levan asked what was being done regarding drug abuse in the county. Dr. Wyers explained that she recently applied for a grant that would establish a drug abuse coalition in the county and another for Naloxone kit distribution. The grants were designed for other counties that do not currently have something in place. Geauga Public Health would be the lead on the initiative and would collaborate with the Mental Health Board.

In the event the grants are not awarded, Dr. Wyers had been in discussions with Jim Adams from Mental Health to create a hub concerning drug abuse.

Dr. Wyers explained how the grants are managed and that they are deliverable-based. Collaboration with other agencies allows us to use our resources more efficiently. Collaboration with the Mental Health Board will be essential to address drug abuse in the county.

10. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Monday, June 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the small meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

11. Adjourn

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Roman moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quade
Secretary, Geauga County Board of Health

a