

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
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 5:00 p.m.

A roll call found the following Board members present: Mr. David Gragg, Mr. Richard Piraino, Pro-Tem, Mrs. Catherine Whitright (via WebEx), and Ms. Lynn Roman. Dr. Patricia Levan shortly after roll call but was in attendance for the meeting.

Staff members present: Thomas Quade, Health Commissioner, David Sage, Director of Environmental Health, Alta Wendell, Director of Administration (via WebEx), Dr. Christine Wyers, Director of Population Health, and Karolyn Johnson, Fiscal Coordinator.

Others present: Adam Litke, Fiscal Consultant; Amy Patterson, Geauga Maple Leaf; Kyle Davidson, John Gruden and John Pekarek.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Ms. Roman moved to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2020 regular meeting and June 29, 2020 special meeting. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Environmental Health Update

a. Variance

i. John Gruden/Kyle Davidson

John Gruden and Kyle Davidson were present and sworn in by Mr. Gragg. Mr. Sage was also sworn in.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a variance request by John Gruden on behalf of Kyle Davidson for the property located at 7995 Cedar Rd., Chester Twp. The request involves section 3701-28-07(D) of the Private Water System Rules which states:

“A well or spring box or pond shall not be located within ten feet of the foundation of a building or dwelling, where termiticides are typically applied, except within a building designed and constructed solely to house a well or spring or pumping and water system equipment. A water well shall not be located closer than five feet to the edge of a deck or porch that is not part of the building foundation for a basement or crawl space, or a slab that has been extended from the residence or building due to limitations for access of large equipment for service.” Discussion followed.

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the variance as requested. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ii. John Pekarek

John Pekarek was present and sworn in by Mr. Gragg.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a variance request by John Pekarek for the property located at 8780 Fairmount Rd., Russell Twp. The request involves section 3701-28-07(D) of the Private Water System Rules which states:

“A well or spring box or pond shall not be located within ten feet of the foundation of a building or dwelling, where termiticides are typically applied, except within a building designed and constructed solely to house a well or spring or pumping and water system equipment. A water well shall not be located closer than five feet to the edge of a deck or

porch that is not part of the building foundation for a basement or crawl space, or a slab that has been extended from the residence or building due to limitations for access of large equipment for service.” Discussion followed.

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the variance as requested. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Population Health Update

Dr. Wyers reported that an Amish Well Child clinic was held recently. University Hospitals provided a trailer and a couple staff to help. There were 19 families served at the clinic.

Staff are making appointments and distributing car seats as part of the Ohio Buckles Buckeye program.

Naloxone is still being distributed. There are online education sessions for those who wish to receive a Naloxone kit. Once completed, the staff provides a contactless handoff of the kit.

The part time contact tracers are working well. More may be needed if numbers continue to rise. There is an average of five to ten contacts per positive case. The contact tracers are getting a lot of non-cooperative people. It makes doing the tracing very difficult.

Dr. Wyers stated that Stephanie Carlson, RN has recently begun her employment with GPH. She is very excited to be part of the team.

The Board stated that they understand it hasn't been easy and they expressed their appreciation in the work the staff is doing.

6. Administration Update

a. Finance Report

Mrs. Johnson explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report.

Mrs. Whitright moved to approve the July 2020 financial report as recommended by the health commissioner. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Quade provided graphs to the Board showing different data sets in regards to Covid. The graphs show the trends of cases. The trend of positive cases is now with the 19 through 30-year-old. This could be attributed to the bars opening and people getting out more.

Another challenge will be when the children return to school. Mr. Quade stated he anticipates seeing another rise in the older generation because of the children being in school.

Mrs. Whitright asked about the new mask mandate and the enforcement. Mr. Quade stated the Governor did say masks were required, however, the order has not been published yet. Mr. Quade stated that he wasn't sure what the enforcement would look like. There won't be people driving around checking. If there is enforcement, it will be a warning.

Mr. Quade stated it wasn't the health department's intention to shut anyone down. This will be handled as more of an education. He stated that he hoped to see the written order before it goes into effect.

The department has been receiving a lot of comments from the residents. Mr. Sage and Mr. Quade are handling the more urgent phone calls and complaints.

Mr. Quade has been working with the local superintendents on their plans to re-open the schools. He stated that the plans have all been excellent. Each school has a different plan based on their resources, space and other factors. One of the challenges is with transportation. The superintendents have come up with creative ways to handle that challenge.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

a. Geauga County Fair

The fair will be held right at the time schools will be opening. Mr. Quade stated he has had very good experiences working with the Geauga County Fair Board. They have done a remarkable job to reduce numbers, but there will still be large crowds. They have concerns about attendees complying with the mask rule. The fair board has the support of the Geauga County Sheriff to help with compliance.

Typically, the Geauga County Fair draws over 200,000 people every year. Even reducing the amount of attendants, the large crowds still present a greatly increased risk of viral transmission. There are many counties that have changed their fairs to a junior fair only so that the kids can complete the projects.

The health department has received a high volume of comments and complaints demanding that the fair be cancelled. The health department has been given legal guidance that it does not have jurisdiction to cancel the fair but that it is under the jurisdiction of the fair board.

The Board felt that it their responsibility to recommend a path and discussed several options to recommend to the fair board. After discussion, the Board decided to request the fair board change the 2020 Geauga County Fair to a Junior Fair only.

Mr. Piraino moved 7.22.20-a to adopt Resolution 2020-13 requesting the Geauga County Fair Board change the 2020 Geauga County Fair to a Junior Fair only. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board asked Mr. Quade to ask the fair board to attend a meeting to discuss their plans for the 2020 Geauga County Fair.

10. Meetings

Special Board of Health meeting to discuss the Geauga County Fair plans, **TBD** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, August 26, 2020** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

11. Adjourn

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quade
Secretary, Geauga County Board of Health

a