

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

Call to Order

Mr. Richard Piraino, 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. Richard Piraino, President, Mr. David Gragg, Pro-Tem, Lynn Roman, Ashley Jones, Pharm.D., and Dr. Patricia Levan.

Staff members present: Adam Litke, Interim Health Administrator; Carol Straniero, Nursing Director; and Mark Citriglia, Operation & Maintenance Program Manager.

Others present: There were approximately 30 members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Board Minutes

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the minutes from the November 24, 2021 regular meeting of the Board. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Executive Session

Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss pending litigation with counsel and matters of personnel. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes. Meeting reconvened at 6:40 pm

Old Business

a. EH Committee Meetings

Mrs. Jones reported that the committee meets to work together to develop the O & M inspection program. This program is in line with other county health departments and is required by the Ohio Department of Health. It is important that we assure we are protecting the waterways.

Fees need to be established before implementing the program. The committee has discussed what fees would be charged and how the fee could be incorporated into a cost that the homeowner already pays. There are some barriers so input will be taken from the installers and residents. Educational sessions will be held for the residents.

Mr. Citriglia explained the different fees, what systems that are included and the timeframe of the operation permits. He also explained the history and reason that the Operation and Maintenance program was put into law in 2015. The Ohio Department of Health has indicated that the existing For Sale of Property program is not sufficient as an O & M program.

Mr. Gragg moved to tabled 12.15.21-a to adopt resolution 2021-10 authorizing an emergency reading of the O&M fees until the next regular Board of Health meeting, January 26, 2022. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes. The Board asked the resolution be re-written not to include categories b and c.

b. Health Commissioner and Administrator Positions

Mr. Gragg stated that interviews for the health commissioner position will be scheduled within the next week to 10 days. Once that is complete, the candidates for the administrator position will be reviewed.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. The Board had no questions.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. She reported updated school data to the Board. Weekly meetings with the school superintendents are still ongoing. The schools are following their own mandates regarding masking.

There has been a rise in cases for the general public. There have been 16 adult deaths and no children deaths. Currently at UH Geauga, there are 42 patients who are Covid positive. Of those, 12 are in the ICU and 4 are on ventilators.

c. Administration Update

Mrs. Wendell provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

1. Finance Report

Mr. Litke explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report. There will be more funds coming for Covid vaccinations.

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the December 2021 financial reports. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes.

d. Health Commissioner/Administrator Update

Mr. Litke provided some information about the new variant that is being seen. He expressed his concern about the mental health issues being seen because of Covid. It is being monitored by the PHS team.

He addressed a concern a resident had expressed regarding whether the Board actually sees the emails that are addressed to them. He explained that the general email box is monitored by Mrs. Wendell and all emails addressed to the Board are forwarded to Mr. Litke, who in turn sends them to the Board.

Social media is being updated daily. Dr. Reid and the staff are working together to update the website as well.

Since the Board meeting was moved up a week due to the holiday, Dr. Reid was not able to attend the meeting because of a previous commitment. Mr. Litke stated she expressed her apologies to him for not being able to attend.

Mr. Piraino reported that Geauga County is the third healthiest county in the State.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Litke outlined the process for providing public comment. He reminded the group to be courteous to the other commenters and the Board of Health. No one will be permitted go past the 2-minute limit. The public comments will be limited to 20 minutes.

Those who wanted to speak were given 2 minutes each to provide their comment. Any resident that was not able to speak because of the time constraint were instructed to send an email and it will be forwarded to the Board.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, January 26, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke
Interim Administrator

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