

Geauga Public Health  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2021, 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 5:00p.m.

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

Staff members present: Thomas Quade, Health Commissioner, David Sage, Director of Environmental Health, Carol Straniero, Director of Population Health, Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid, Medical Director, and Mark Citriglia, Sanitarian in Training.

Others present: Adam Litke, Fiscal & HR Consultant

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Approval of Board Minutes

**The minutes from the February 24, 2021 regular meeting of the Board will be presented at the April 28, 2021 meeting.**

Public Comment Session

*Public comment session is to last 20 minutes unless the Board moves to extend. Each speaker is allotted 2 minutes to make comments and ask questions. Questions will be answered by the Board after having an opportunity to investigate responses following the meeting. Board responses will be recorded and publicly filed with meeting minutes.*

There was no public comment.

4. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage reported that there is a restaurant in the county that has been having a pest infestation issue. They are currently closed by order of the health department. The food inspection staff are working with the owners to remedy the problem. Mr. Quade stated he has also been to the establishment. If they do not comply, they will be brought before the Board for license revocation.

a. Sewage Operation and Maintenance Program

Mr. Sage introduced Mark Citriglia, Operation and Maintenance Program Manager. Mr. Citriglia explained the program is being developed in response to a state mandate by the Ohio Department of Health. This mandate requires the inspection of all sewage systems in the State of Ohio. It also requires the local health departments to provide homeowner education about each of the system.

There will be an annual permit fee charged to the homeowner. The fee will be based on the type of system.

Mr. Citriglia anticipated needing to hire four more sanitarians. There are approximately 23,000 sewage systems in the county. There will be thousands of inspections that need to be conducted annually. Many of the systems are undocumented.

The software currently used by environmental health is not able to handle the billing aspect of this program. Mr. Citriglia explained he is researching another software program that will be able to manage the billing aspect as well as the large of amount of data that will be collected. The program will also allow residents to complete their permit renewal online, upload documents and see their system information. Mr. Citriglia expects that approximately 1,700 inspections will need to be completed every year.

The purpose of this program to help homeowners understand their system and how to maintain it. This will help eliminate a major financial burden to the homeowner that is caused by having a septic failure.

The implementation of this program will be preceded by information being provided to township officials, county residents and other stakeholders about the program.

5. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero provided information showing the percentage of residents who have received the first and second doses of COVID vaccine. She reported that all school personnel who had previously signed up have received first doses and second dose clinics will be held in the next weekend.

As of March 16, 2021, Geauga Public Health has held 44 clinics and administered almost 6,500 doses. Drive-through clinics at the Geauga County Fairgrounds will begin Tuesday, April 13, 2021 and will continue for 3 consecutive Tuesdays. Other clinics will be held during that time throughout the county. Beginning Thursday, May 13, 2021 second dose clinics will be held for those who had their first dose at one of the Tuesday clinics and will continue for 3 consecutive Thursdays.

Mrs. Straniero stated that a partnership has been formed with Geauga Medical Center. They provide nurses for Geauga Public Health clinics and we will be reciprocating and providing nurses for their clinic.

Mr. Quade stated that the website to schedule appointments should be operational within the next week.

Mrs. Straniero reported that a new health educator and clerical specialist have been hired and have begun their employment with Geauga Public Health.

6. Administration Update

a. Finance Report

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

**Mr. Sage moved to approve the March 2021 financial report as recommended by the health commissioner. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

7. Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Quade provided graphs showing various COVID data. He discussed the Governor's threshold to remove the mask mandate.

Mr. Quade reported that the balance of the pre-site visit documents for accreditation have been uploaded. A site visitor will review anything that may have not been met or slightly met and may have more questions. This is a new process for PHAB because this is being done remotely. Mr. Quade stated that he felt it may go to the PHAB committee in August. This is an opportunity for us to find gaps. We do good work, it just wasn't always documented in ways that support the PHAB process.

The State has put out guidance about county fairs. Mr. Quade and the fair board president are working together on their plan for the fair. Mr. Quade is also working with the Maple Festival on their plan using the guidance as well. The Board asked to be kept apprised of what the plans are working out to be.

8. Old Business

a. 2022 Geauga Public Health Proposed Budget

The budget was presented at the last regular meeting. Mr. Quade provided a summary of the 2022 budget for the Board's reference.

**Mr. Piraino moved 3.17.21-a to approve the 2022 Geauga Public Health budget as presented. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried.** The budget will be presented at the Budget Commission meeting on April 5, 2021.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Executive Session

**Ms. Roman moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss the health commissioner's evaluation and compensation. Mr. Piraino seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Mr. Piraino, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; and Dr. Levan, yes.**

Upon entering back in to regular session, **Mr. Piraino moved 3.17.21-b to amend the contract with Thomas Quade, Health Commissioner to reflect a salary increase of 5% to reflect a salary of \$105,000 per year and authorize David Gragg, President of the Board of Health to sign the amended contract on behalf of the full Board. Salary increase is to be retroactive to January 1, 2021. In addition, Thomas Quade will continue to receive \$450.00 per month mileage stipend to cover all mileage while performing his duties as Health Commissioner. Terms of Contract: A term of this agreement shall be retroactive to 1/1/2021 and end on the close of business on 12/31/2024. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Gragg, yes; Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Whitright, yes (remote) and Dr. Levan, yes.**

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Meetings

Annual HDAC meeting 7:30 pm., **Wednesday, March 24, 2021**, 470 enter St., Building #8, Chardon Ohio.

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, April 28, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

13. Adjourn

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quade  
Secretary, Geauga County Board of Health

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