

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 26, 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, Ms. Lynn Roman, Dr. Patricia Levan, and Ashely Jones.

Staff members present: Thomas Quade, Health Commissioner, David Sage, Director of Environmental Health, Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid, Medical Director (via WebEx), Mark Citriglia, Sanitarian in Training, Zachary Myers, Registered Sanitarian; and Sherri Carroll, Grant Coordinator;

Others present: Adam Litke, Fiscal & HR Consultant; Jeffrey and Heidi Ferg; Catherine Whitright; and Frank Klarich.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Catherine Whitright Recognition of Service

The Board presented Mrs. Whitright with a plaque, a proclamation and bouquet of flowers in recognition of her five years of service on the Geauga County Board of Health. Her insight and wisdom will be missed. Mrs. Whitright stated she enjoyed her time spent on the Board of Health and working with all the members. She thanked everyone for the show of appreciation and stated she will miss everyone.

4. Welcome Ashley Jones

The Board welcomed Ms. Jones to the Geauga County Board of Health. Ms. Jones stated she was excited to be part of the Board and was looking forward to working with the Board.

5. Election of President and Pro-Tem

Ms. Roman moved to nominate Rich Piraino as President. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motioned carried.

Ms. Roman moved to nominate David Gragg as Pro-Tem. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried. The new President and Pro-Tem will take on their positions at the June 2021 meeting.

6. Approval of Board Minutes

Dr. Levan moved to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2021 and March 17, 2021 regular meeting of the Board. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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.

7. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage reported on the show-rate for the Administrative Hearings that were recently held. On May 10, 2021, there were 19 properties scheduled, 11 of those took action prior to the hearing, 5 property owners came to the hearing and agreed to timelines and 3 did not show.

On May 24, 2021, there were 24 properties scheduled, 6 took action prior to the hearing, 8 property owners came to the hearing and agreed to timelines and 10 did not show. All those who did not attend will be forwarded to the prosecutor's office for legal action.

QI Project

Geauga Public Health has a commitment is ongoing continuous quality improvement and program management. The staff identify, lead, correct and monitor areas for improvement. The particular QI project that was presented was also used as part of PHAB accreditation. Mr. Quade introduced Zachary Myers who then explained the project.

Mr. Myers stated that the problem that was identified was the amount of time between when a resident left a voicemail for the inspectors and the time the call was returned. Staff were recording their voicemails, but not in a uniform way. There was not a specific timeframe to return calls.

A uniform log was developed for all staff to use. It included date received, name, time returned and the outcome of the returned call. In addition, a timeframe of 5 working days to return the call was established. In 2020, the EH staff received 3372 voicemails, 3250 of which were returned within 5 day parameter. Only 122 voicemails were not returned with 5 days, roughly 4%.

This project is still ongoing to get to the 100% goal and to narrow the timeframe down to 3 working days.

Variances

a. Klarich Farms LLC/Kiwanis Lake Homes LLC

Frank Klarich was present. Mr. Sage was sworn in by Mr. Gragg.

Ms. Jones stated she would refrain from commenting or voting on the variance due to her relationship with Frank Klarich and Klarich Farms LLC.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a variance request by Klarich Farms LLC. On behalf of Kiwanis Lakes Homes LLC. for the property located at 14670 Zenith Dr., Newbury Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-06 (G) (3) (a) of the Household Sewage Treatment Regulations which states:

“A sewage treatment system shall maintain the following minimum horizontal isolation distances: All components of a sewage treatment system shall be at least ten feet from a right-of-way.” Discussion followed.

Mr. Sage explained that the owner is having a new sewage treatment system installed at the property and due to the limited space on the property, 0.19 acres between 3 different parcels, the aeration treatment unit will be less than 10 feet to the road **right-of-way**. The other horizontal isolation requirements for buildings, property lines, and wells are being met.

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the variance to allow the installation of the sewage treatment system within the 10 fee of the road right-of-way isolation distance as shown on the proposed site plan dated May 17, 2021. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Mr. Gragg, yes; Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, abstain. Motion carried.

Administrative Hearings

b. Jeffrey & Heidi Ferg

Jeffrey and Heidi Ferg were present and sworn in by Mr. Gragg.

Mr. Sage stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Jeffrey & Heidi Ferg, located at 11505 Rust Dr., Chester Twp. This case is based on 3701-29- of the Ohio Administrative Code and Sewage Treatment System Rules:

3701-29-06 (E) (1)

“Shall be maintained in property working condition.”

3701-29-06 (E) (3)

“No STS or GWRS or part thereof shall create a public health nuisance, as defined in section 3718.011 of the Revised Code, or safety hazard. No STS or GWRS or part thereof shall cause an exceedance of water quality standards for surface water or drinking water.”

This case also pertains to Section 3718.011 of the Ohio Revised Code-Conditions under which a sewage treatment system causes a public health nuisance:

- 3718.011(A) "For purposes of this chapter, a sewage treatment system is causing a public health nuisance if any of the following situations occurs and, after notice by a board of health to the applicable property owner, timely repairs are not made to that system to eliminate the situation:
 - (A)(3) An inspection conducted by, or under the supervision of the environmental protection agency or a sanitarian registered under Chapter 4736 of the Revised Code documents that there is ponding of liquid or bleeding of liquid onto the surface of the ground or into surface water and the liquid has a distinct sewage order, a black or gray coloration, or the presence of organic matter and any of the following:
 - (A)(3)(a) The presence of sewage effluent identified through a dye test;"

Mr. Sage stated that this case was in regards to the required 12 month follow-up inspection on a new installation of a household sewage treatment system that was found to not be operating properly. The owners have had some repairs made recently and have scheduled to have the dye test conducted again. Discussion followed.

Mr. Piraino moved that a code violation exists at the property owned by Jeffery and Heidi Ferg located at 11505 Rust Dr., Chester Twp. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Piraino moved that the owners be ordered to eliminate the nuisance condition by making corrections to repair the septic system or by obtaining the necessary permits and installing a new sewage disposal system within 60 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor's office for legal action. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Gragg thanked Mr. & Mrs. Ferg for coming to the meeting and working toward remedying the nuisance condition.

Sewage Operation and Maintenance Program

Mr. Citriglia stated that presentations are ready for the township trustees and for the website. He said that presentations will begin after the prosecutor reviews the content. A one-page summary was developed to provide to the prosecutor to outline the program. Mr. Piraino suggested presentations to realtors, Department on Aging and other agencies that may have a vested interest. Mr. Quade stated Mr. Citriglia will also be recording short videos to be shown on G-TV. Mr. Citriglia stated that the program will begin with systems that have annual contracts and required sampling. The goal is to enroll 5000 per year and to have all systems enrolled by 2027.

The vital tool to make this program run smoothly is the software. The software will allow billing and payments online.

The board questioned how the For Sale of Property inspections relate to the O & M inspections. Mr. Quade stated that the plan is for FSP to be an entry into the O & M program. Properties that have a FSP inspection conducted will automatically be enrolled in the O & M program. The programs will be overlapping for some time.

5. Population Health Update

Mr. Quade reported 45% of Ohioans and 50% of Geauga County residents have had at least one dose and 39% of Ohioans and 44% of Geauga County residents have completed their Covid vaccinations. The final 2nd dose vaccination clinic will be held May 27, 2021.

We have partnered with Department on Aging to vaccinate home-bound residents who wish to have the vaccine. We will follow the Meals-on-Wheels route to reach those people. We have also had a migrant worker clinic and have another scheduled later this week. Pop-up clinics have been scheduled all around the county.

6. Administration Update

a. Finance Report

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

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the April 2021 and May 2021 financial report as recommended by the health commissioner. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

We will be receiving an additional \$40,000.00 for two of our Covid grants. Mr. Litke will be revise the budget and resubmit to ODH.

The State nurse's contract is expiring. We will no longer have the use of those nurses for vaccine clinics.

The Nursing Supervisor has resigned and Abby Beduhn, PHN has applied for the position. She was interviewed, has been offered and has accepted the position. Mr. Quade said that the vacant PHN position will be posted.

Mr. Litke praised the work that Mrs. Straniero and Ms. Beduhn have done. They both have worked very hard and have kept the clinics running smoothly through this pandemic. He said that the Board should be very proud of them. Mr. Quade thanked Mr. Litke.

Mrs. Wendell provided binders to the Board containing the resources they need to be informed members. She felt it would be helpful for them to have it all in one place. As documents are updated, she will provide the Board with revised copies.

The Board was asked to complete a waiver indicating if they wished to be paid for attendance to Board meetings. The limit is 16 per year and the rate is \$30.00 per meeting. Per the Auditor's office, this is considered taxable income and would result in a 1099 at the end of the year.

Most of the Board attended (virtually) Sunshine Law training recently. The ORC states all Board of Health members must receive 2 hours of training per year. The Sunshine Law training satisfies that requirement. Mr. Quade said he would find other training for those who were not able to attend.

The Directors also took the training. Mrs. Wendell provided some highlights of the training.

7. Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Quade was invited to sit on a focus group for public health leaders. This is comprised of State and local agencies, local health departments and some foundations to look at staffing of local health departments at a national perspective. The group looks at the financial resources per capita of population served. The pandemic has made it clear there are staffing problems in public health. To be appropriately staffed, the cost would be approximately \$30.00 per capita per population served on top of fees for services and contracts. We currently receive about \$360,000 per year through our levy.

Mr. Quade also serves on the United Way Community Advisory Board. The board is reshaping how they are awarding grants. This year, there will be fewer grants available but at larger amount. They want agencies to work collaboratively to obtain the grants.

The accreditation site visit is finished. Mr. Quade showed the accreditation dashboard for Geauga County. Based on the dashboard and his expire on the PHAB Board, his opinion is that Geauga Public Health will become accredited. We won't have official word until August. Mr. Quade thanked the Board for their support through the process. Ms. Roman congratulated Mr. Quade and the Geauga Public Health team on this major accomplishment.

The Covid orders are lifted as of June 2, 2021. Mr. Quade developed a list of recommendations for full vaccinated and non-vaccinated people. These are recommendations only, no orders. He will continue to look at these as more residents become vaccinated.

Mr. Quade provided graphs showing current COVID data. Every week, Mr. Quade does a video broadcast with the current information.

8. Old Business

a. HDAC Meeting

Ashley Jones was appointed at the HDAC meeting. The President and Secretary of the HDAC were reappointed at the meeting. Mr. Quade presented the 2022 Budget and 2020 Annual Report at the meeting also.

b. Budget Commission Meeting

The meeting was uneventful with the exception of the prosecutor not understanding we were moving forward with the O & M program. Mr. Quade explained that the 2022 budget includes the O & M program, which the Board approved. This is why the one page summary was developed for the O & M program. The 2022 budget was approved with one vote of no from the Geauga County Prosecutor.

9. New Business

a. Revenue Certification, Supplemental Appropriation and Cash Transfer Request

Mr. Piraino moved 5.26.21-a to approve the revenue certification, supplemental appropriation and cash transfer requests as presented. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Mrs. Johnson explained the reason for these changes to the budget and which funds they affected. **Motion carried.**

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, June 23, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

12. Adjourn

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quade
Secretary, Geauga County Board of Health

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