

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 24, 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 5:02 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: Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid, Interim Health Commissioner; Adam Litke, Interim Health Administrator; Carol Straniero, Nursing Director; Alta Wendell, Director of Administration; and David Sage, Environmental Health Director

Others present: 18 members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Board Minutes

Ms. Roman moved to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2021 regular meeting and November 9, 2021 special meeting of the Board. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Variances

- a. Chad Gady, 8752 Ravenna Rd., Chardon Twp.

Chad Gady was present and sworn in by Mr. Piraino. Mr. Gragg was also sworn in and stated his experience.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a variance request by Chad Gady for the property located at 8752 Ravenna Rd., Chardon Twp. The request involves section 3701-28-07-07(D) of the Private Water Systems Rules which states:

“A well, spring box, or pond shall not be located within ten feet of the foundation of a building or dwelling.”

The owner is having a sunroom added onto the home. The home addition will be approximately 3 feet from the well. Mr. Sage stated that the Environmental Health staff recommends that the variance be approved. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the variance as recommended by the Environmental Health staff. 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.

Old Business

- a. EH Committee Meetings

Mrs. Jones reported that the committee is working on a plan to launch the O & M inspection program. The group is in the drafting stages at this time. Discussion has taken place regarding the structure and the fees as well as educate the public on the program. Ms. Roman asked what the timeline was. Mr. Piraino stated that the hope is to implement the program sometime in 2022. He went on to say that the For Sale or Property evaluation program satisfies part of the requirements of the State for an O & M program.

Mrs. Jones stated that a lot of work will be going into this program and the plan is to begin with NPDES systems to get those systems sampled, which is required by the State.

- b. Health Commissioner and Administrator Positions

Mr. Gragg stated that 7 resumes have been received for the health commissioner position. Interviews will be held in the near future and will be handled by the interview committee which consists of Dr. Levan, Mrs. Jones, John Tiber and Ron Graham, Health Commissioner for Lake County General Health District. Mr. Graham has assisted the Board in the past. Several resumes have been received for the Administrator position as well.

The goal for filling these positions is to find someone who has the skill set to do the job, but also who understands Geauga County and fits Geauga County. By next meeting, the final list of candidates should be ready to schedule interviews.

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. The Board had no questions.

c. Administration Update

Mrs. Wendell provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. There was an update to the Administration Division report. Mrs. Wendell had to leave the meeting, so Mr. Litke provided the information.

The clerical specialist who has been covering Vital Statistics gave notice of her resignation. Her last day will be December 3, 2021. Sherri Carroll who currently services as Grants Coordinator has expressed interest in becoming Registrar for Vital Statistics. Mr. Litke will take over the grant coordination. The Board is being asked to approve that appointment in new business.

1. Finance Report

Mr. Litke explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report. The Board is being asked to approve the 2022 budget in new business. This is the same temporary budget that was approved in March 2021.

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the November 2021 financial reports. Ms. Roman 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 stated that the calls with the schools are still being held.

A document on natural immunities was pushed out to the public. There were a lot of questions on the document. This was a guidance document only. There is a common misconception that GPH is making the mandates for schools. This is not being done. It is each school's decision.

There has been an increase in cases and we expect to see more with the holidays. Hospitalizations are also on the increase but not deaths. The conversion rate for schools has decreased. These are the cases going from a close contact to becoming positive.

We have applied for a new vaccination grant which will allow us to continue to give COVID vaccine to those who wish to get it.

There is a new drug coming out that will be similar to Tami-Flu but will be for COVID. Dr. Reid stated that it had great data and will be very helpful.

The clinics for the school personnel and children's clinics are continuing throughout the month of December. Mrs. Straniero stated that the children's clinics have seen lower numbers.

New Business

a. Resolution 2021-8 Emergency Reading of Food Fees

Mr. Gragg 11.24.21-a to adopt resolution 2021-8 to authorize the emergency reading of Food Service

fees. Fees will become effective January 1, 2022. This is a decrease of 22%. **Mrs. Jones 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.**

b. Variance Approvals

Mr. Gragg moved 11.24.21-b to delegate authority to the Health Commissioner/Administrator and Environmental Health Director to approve or disapprove variances. This will allow faster processing of these requests. Anything out of the normal or variances that that the Health Commissioner/Administrator and EH Director do not agree on will be brought to the Board for approval. **Ms. Roman 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.**

c. Resolution 2021-9 Registrar Appointment

Mr. Gragg moved 11.24.21-c to adopt Resolution 2021-9 to appoint Sherri Carroll as Registrar effective December 7, 2021. Mrs. Jones 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. 2021 Geauga Public Health Budget

Mr. Litke provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. He reviewed the differences between the 2021 and 2022 budgets as well as what is happening with the different grants.

Mr. Gragg moved 11.24.21-d to approve the 2022 Geauga Public Health budget as presented. Ms. Roman 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.

Public Comment Session

Several people had complained at the last meeting that public comment was interrupted for Executive Session. Mr. Litke stated that the Board needed to consult with legal counsel on a pending case and the attorney was only available at that time. He apologized, but it was necessary.

He also had concerns about mask mandates. GPH does not mandate masks or vaccines nor are businesses shut down for either.

Mr. Litke outlined the process for providing public comment. He reminded the group to be courteous and to not go past the 2-minute limit.

Seven people requested and were given 2 minutes each to provide their comment.

Executive Session

Executive session was not held due to time constraints.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, December 15, 2021** 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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