

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
October 27, 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 5:07 p.m.

A roll call found the following Board members present: Mr. Richard Piraino, President, Mr. David Gragg, Pro-Tem, Lynn Roman, Dr. Ashley Jones, Pharm.D., and Dr. Patricia Levan, MD.

Staff members present: Adam Litke, Interim Health Administrator; Carol Straniero, Nursing Director; Alta Wendell, Director of Administration; and David Sage, Environmental Health Director

Others present: 54 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 September 14, 2021 and October 12, 2021 special meetings and September 22, 2021 regular meeting of the Board. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Litke served as monitor for public comments. He outlined the process for providing public comment.

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

Old Business

a. Private Water Fees

Mr. Gragg moved 10.27.21-a to approve the third and final reading of the Private Water fees as presented. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

b. Board of health By-Laws

Mr. Piraino moved 10.27.21-b to adopt the 2021 Geauga Board of Health By-laws as amended. Ms. Roman, seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Executive Session

Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 5:40 p.m. to discuss pending litigation with counsel and matters related to personnel and compensation. 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 Ms. Jones, yes. Meeting reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage reported that he has completed the Food Service cost analysis. Because of the pandemic, last year the staff didn't complete as many inspections which resulted in the cost of the fees needing to be reduced for 2022. The Board will be asked to vote on the fees at the November meeting.

The Ohio EPA has finished removing all the liquid waste from the nuisance on Clark Rd. There is still solid waste on the property. Mr. Sage will be reaching out to OEPA to see if there are other avenues to get the solid waste

cleaned up quicker. This case is in court between the owner of the property and the person who has caused the solid waste. The case is with the prosecutor's office for enforcement as a public health nuisance complaint.

We had a Private Water survey in July that covered 2018-2020. Geauga Public Health has met the requirements to continue to administer the program. The areas of improvements that they cited had already been addressed beginning 2021. We have changed the way violations are reported to the PWS contractors. We no longer notify the contractors verbally about violations, but now send letters of violations that are sent to all parties involved in the system. This will include all PWS involved in installing the system and the homeowner.

On November 3, 2021, Geauga Soil and Water is hosting an educational seminar about private water systems and water testing. This is in conjunction with Department of Water Resources, Ohio EPA and GPH. Mark Citriglia and Mr. Sage will be presenting. Mr. Sage said that he and Mr. Citriglia are excited to partner with the other agencies to bring this education to the public.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero reported on the data from school line lists September 20, 2021 through October 26, 2021. The data showed 188 students and 14 staff tested positive, 387 students and 7 staff were exposed. Out of 910 quarantined/exposed there were 42 that became positive. This shows a rate of 4.62%. There have been no pediatric hospitalizations or deaths.

Mrs. Straniero announced that Janice Hoffmann was hired as the new public health nurse and has begun her employment at GPH. She also reported that Shannon Schulte has been promoted to the Emergency Response Coordinator. Mrs. Schulte previously worked as a clerk in Environmental Health. Mrs. Straniero expressed she is excited to have them in their new roles

Magaly Rios, health educator has received certification as a child passenger technician through the Ohio Buckles Buckeye program. GPH offers car seats and boosters through the program to those who qualify. Miss Rios is now certified to install car seats and provide education to parents how to install them properly. She also became a Sleep Ambassador for Geauga County. She provides education to community partners about safe sleep for babies.

Both health educators participated in the market October 3, 2021 on Chardon Square. They distributed Naloxone kits and talked to people about Safe Communities and public health. They will also be participating in this year's Trunk or Treat event put on by Department on Aging. It will be held at the Mayfield Rd. drive-in. This is an event that is held every year for Geauga County seniors. There are 335 seniors registered to attend. Goodie bags are provided to the seniors containing items that they might need.

c. Administration Update

1. Finance Report

Mr. Litke explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report.

Ms. Roman moved to approve the October 2021 financial reports. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Health Commissioner/Administrator Update

Mr. Litke stated that the student conversion of 4.62% is what is considered behind the recommendations to the schools. He reiterated that GPH can only provide recommendations.

Mrs. Wendell is overseeing the EH clerks and is spending time in that area to observe and providing support until a new clerk is hired.

Nancy Tvergyak is retiring October 29, 2021 with 23 years of service. The Board was asked to sign a resolution in appreciation to her work.

Mrs. Johnson is finalizing year end finances which ends in approximately 45 days.

Mr. Litke provided a list of proposed employee contribution health insurance rates. It is approximately a 12% increase for staff, but actually is only about \$10 per month. This will mirror what the other county employees contribute.

The staff continues to work with the installers and work through processes to make obtaining a permit faster and more efficient.

Mr. Litke reported he has been attending meetings and working with other public agencies to stay connected to the community.

New Business

a. 2022 Healthcare & Dental Rates

Ms. Roman moved 10.27.21-c to adopt the 2022 Healthcare and Dental Rates as presented. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

b. Amended Resolution 2019-16 Authorizing the Health Commissioner or Health Administrator the authority to increase/decrease estimated revenues and appropriations

Mr. Gragg moved 10.27.21-d to adopt amended Resolution 2019-16 Authorizing the Health Commissioner or Health Administrator the authority to increase/decrease estimated revenues and appropriations. 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.

c. Amend Motion 9.22.21-c

Mr. Gragg moved 10.27.21-e to amend Motion 9.22.21-c to read " ...Purchase Order Approval Limits: Health Commissioner or Health Administrator-\$50,000.00, Division Directors-\$10,000.00." Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Piraino moved to amend the contract with Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid to reflect the change in the scope of her responsibilities and for the payment as Interim Health Commissioner. 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 Ms. Jones, yes.

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the resolution honoring Nancy Tvergyak for 23 years of service. 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 Ms. Jones, yes.

Other Business

Mr. Gragg explained that as discussed at a previous meeting, the position of Health Commissioner was posted. Several resumes have been received and the Board is in the process of reviewing them. The Board will be also advertising for the position of Administrator as well.

Dr. Levan brought up the topic of the O & M Program that has been tabled. She stated that this is a State mandated program that must be put in place to follow ODH. The staff gave a great proposal for a program that hasn't really been reviewed. A committee will be formed to work through the proposal to decide what's best for the county. It is hoped to accomplish this within the next 1-2 months.

Meetings

Special meeting of the Board, **Tuesday, November 9, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. at Chardon Township Hall, 9499 Mentor Rd., Chardon, Ohio..

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, November 24, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

With no further business, Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke
Interim Administrator

a