

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
September 22, 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, Lynn Roman, Dr. Ashley Jones, Pharm.D., and Dr. Patricia Levan, MD. Mr. David Gragg was excused.

Staff members present: Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid, Medical Director/Interim Health Commissioner; Adam Litke, Interim Administrator; Carol Straniero, Nursing Director; Alta Wendell, Director of Administration; and David Sage, Environmental Health Director

Others present: 38 county residents in-person and approximately 8 virtual.

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 August 25, 2021 regular meeting and the September 1, 2021 special meeting of the Board. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Variance

a. Anthony Trivisonno

Anthony Trivisonno was present and sworn in by Mr. Piraino. Mr. Sage was also sworn in.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a variance request by Anthony Trivisonno for the property located at **12680 Millview Ln., Munson Twp.** The request involves section 3701-28-07-07(D)(3)(c) off 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 an addition and attached garage built onto their home. The home addition will be approximately 3 feet from the well and the attached garage will be approximately 8 feet from the well. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sage stated that the Environmental Health staff recommends that this variance be approved

Dr. Levan moved to approve the variance as presented. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes.

b. Zeigler Earthworks/Kenny Coven

Rod Zeigler was present and sworn in by Mr. Piraino.

Mr. Sage stated that this is a variance request by Zeigler Earthworks, Rod Zeigler, on behalf of Kenny Coven for the property located at **825 Sun Ridge Ln., South Russell Village.** The request involves section 3701-29-06(G)(3)(a) of the Household Sewage Treatment System Rules which states:

“All components of a sewage treatment system shall be at least ten feet from any driveway and intermittent stream....”

This is an existing home with an existing sewage system that was replaced. The sewage installer made a mistake in measuring for the isolation distances for setting the new NPDES discharging aeration treatment unit sewage

system component. The self-contained treatment component is too close to an intermittent stream, 8'6", along with being too close to the driveway, 6'6". Discussion followed.

Mr. Sage stated that the Environmental health staff recommends that this variance be approved to have the installed aeration treatment unit sewage system be 8'6" from the intermittent stream and 6'6" from the driveway.

Ms. Jones moved to approve the variance to allow the aeration treatment and sewage system to be installed 8' 6" from the intermittent stream and 6' 6" from the driveway. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes.

Public Comment Session

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

Public comment took 1.5 hours. Twenty-four people were given 2 minutes each to provide their comment.

The Board provided a presentation regarding the next steps in hiring a health commissioner. Ms. Roman reviewed the actions that had occurred within the last few weeks which include appointing Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid as Interim Health Commissioner and hiring Adam Litke as Interim Health Administrator. She described their qualifications.

Ms. Roman then went on to describe the options the Board are considering in hiring a health commissioner and/or administrator. The option of allowing the Ohio Department of Health to take control of Geauga Public Health was also discussed.

Further, Ms. Roman went on to state that Geauga Public Health follows the rules and guidelines of Ohio Department of Health and the CDC. The school guidelines were also reviewed.

The audience was informed of the other valuable programs and services Geauga Public Health performs.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Several installers expressed their dissatisfaction at the delays to obtain a septic permit.

Mr. Sage explained what is involved to get a septic permit issued. There are a number of issues that make getting a permit difficult. He addressed questions regarding the processes and the length of time it takes to obtain approval for a permit. He stated processes are being reviewed to work towards making obtaining a permit quicker. A tracking sheet/audit form has been developed and is being used to gather more information on the timeline.

He stated that the new software program which will be completed by the beginning of 2022 will make the process seamless. The system will allow submission of applications and payments online. It will have the ability for the user to see what paperwork they are missing and when the permit is ready to be issued. The issuing of the permit can all be done online without needing the user to come into the office. Communication between the inspector and user will all be done through the software and will be recorded. Appointments can be made through the software as well.

Mr. Sage reported to the Board that a new sanitarian was hired and has begun his training. He has experience doing many different programs at another health department.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero reviewed the many services that Population Health offers to the public. Many of the programs are run through grants. The deliverables for the grants are current, even throughout the pandemic. She reviewed the grants and what services are provided for each one.

Immunization clinics are still being held. Mrs. Straniero reported that 384 immunizations have been administered since August 1, 2021. This includes immunization clinics for Spanish speaking children. Magaly Rios, who was recently hired as health educator, has been translating for those clinics.

Amish well child clinics have begun. Those clinics are held monthly at the Middlefield Care Center in Middlefield.

Mrs. Straniero reported that Geauga Public Health is still holding walk-in Covid clinics 3-4 times week for all three types of vaccine. The staff is also immunizing home-bound residents and incarcerated individuals.

Covid data from September 9, 2021 to September 22, 2022 was provided. At UH Geauga, currently there are 19 patients with Covid; seven in ICU and 2 on ventilators. There has been one child admitted with Covid. During the same period last year, there were 4 adult deaths and this year there were 2 deaths. There were no child deaths either year during this period. Current inpatient bed capacity at UH Geauga is 87.74%, ICU is at 91.67%. These are not all Covid

Mrs. Straniero provided data that Sarah Sullivan, Epidemiologist and Kane Zeller, health educator composed. This data came from the line lists of reported cases that the schools provide to Geauga Public Health. There is no software program to aggregate the numbers. Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Keller had to review every child's name that was a contact to see if when they were a contact, they became positive. This data represents 42.2% of the line lists from the schools which included positive students (117), positive staff (17), exposed students (430), exposed staff (4) and quarantine of that School data- not inclusive.

Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Zeller reviewed every child's name to determine if a child became positive after they were reported as a contact. Because of the amount of data, they were only able to review 42.2% of the total line lists provided from August 30, 2021 to September 22, 2021. These are the results of that review. Total confirmed positive students 117; staff testing positive, 17; 430 students and 4 staff exposed; exposed contacts in quarantine, 351. Of the 351 exposed contacts, 27 became positive. Mr. Litke expressed how important this information is to have so that the Board of Health and Population Health team can determine recommendations.

c. Administration Update

1. Finance Report

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

Ms. Roman moved to approve the August and September 2021 financial reports. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Health Commissioner/Administrator Update

Mr. Litke stated that the statistics provided by Mrs. Straniero was being done to provide transparency. He asked that the audience understand that the numbers provided were not something that was in a report already developed. The staff had to review each student's name from the information provided by the schools.

He asked for some grace for the Board for allowing everyone the time to speak during the comment section.

Old Business

a. O & M Program Fees

Dr. Levan moved to table 9.22.21-a to approve the O & M Program fees. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. A member of the audience asked if this meant that the program was being scrapped. Mr. Litke stated that the O & M program is required by ODH. The program that was presented previously is being tabled. It will be reviewed and brought back in a different form. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes.**

b. Private Water Fees

Ms. Jones moved 9.22.21-b to approve the second reading of the Private Water fees as presented. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes.

Executive Session

Executive session was not held due to the length of the meeting.

New Business

a. Purchase Order Approval Limits

Ms. Roman moved 9.22.21-c to approve the following revisions to the Purchase Order Approval Limits:

Health Commissioner- \$50,000.00, Division Directors- \$10,000.00. Mr. Litke explained that every purchase would go through the proper approval process and the Board would see it on the current expense report. **Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

b. Amendment of Board of Health Bylaws

Dr. Levan moved to amend the Board of Health Bylaws by adding the section regarding committees of 2 members. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes.

c. Supplemental Appropriations and Cash Transfer

Ms. Roman moved 9.22.21-d to approve the supplemental appropriations and cash transfer requests as presented. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Mrs. Johnson stated that these are needed to adjust the 2021 budget. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes.**

d. Recommendation for School Guidance

The Board reviewed the recommendations for schools. It will be posted to the Facebook page and Geauga Public Health website as well as distributed to the schools. These are recommendations and not mandates.

Ms. Roman moved to approve the school recommendations as presented. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Ms. Jones, yes.

e. Discussion about additional monthly Board meetings

Dr. Levan moved to hold an extra Board meeting on the second Tuesday of the month through December 2021. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Meetings

Special meeting of the Board, **Tuesday, October 12, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

Regular Board of Health Meeting, **Wednesday, October 27, 2021** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke
Interim Administrator

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