

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

Opening Session

a. 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, Lynn Roman, Ashley Jones, Pharm.D and Carolyn Brakey. Dr. Patricia Levan was not present.

Staff members present: Dr. J. Jeffrey Cameron, Health Commissioner, Adam Litke, Administrator, Carol Straniero, Nursing Director, Dan Lark, Interim Environmental Health Director, Alta Wendell, Director of Administration and Joel Weis, Clerical Specialist.

Others present: There were 17 others present including Company 119 who was live-streaming the meeting to YouTube.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

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

c. Welcome Carolyn Brakey

The Board members welcomed Carolyn Brakey, Esq. to the Geauga County Board of Health.

d. Election of President and Pro-Tem

Mrs. Brakey moved to nominate Mr. Piraino as President of the Board. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Roman moved to nominate Mrs. Jones as Pro-Tem. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Approval of Board Minutes

Ms. Roman moved to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022 regular meeting of the Board with corrections Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with three yes and one abstention by Mrs. Brakey.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Piraino outlined the process and policies for providing public comment. Those who would like to comment but not attend the meeting are invited to email info@geaugacountyhealth.org and their comments will be forwarded to the Board.

Those who wanted to speak were given 2 minutes each to provide their comment.

Two residents and township trustee spoke about a problem that they have been struggling with in Parkman for over two years. Test results have shown that there are several homes downhill from the ODOT salt facility which have contaminated wells. The owners have to purchase water to drink because of the salt levels in their wells. They have not gotten any help from OEPA and ODOT is no longer communicating. They were asking for help to get their wells taken care of. Mr. Litke and Mr. Lark stated that they would work with them to try to remediate the problem.

A resident brought up a concern that she received a letter informing her that an evaluation of the sewage system was not completed at the time of sale. She purchased the home in 2017. Discussion continued regarding why it has taken so long to notify her that this needed to be done. Mr. Litke explained that the For Sale of Property evaluation program (FSP) is very far behind. This has been an ongoing problem for many years due to many different circumstances. The Board discussed the possibility of stopping the program altogether. More discussion will be held at a later date.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Litke introduced Dan Lark, Interim Environmental Health Director. He is a shared asset with Lake County Health District. He comes with many years of experience. Mr. Lark stated he was working to understand the Geauga County and is looking forward to working with everyone.

The Environmental Health report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.

b. Population Health Update

The Population Health report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Ms. Jones stated that she would like to see more statistics on STDs in the county. She would also like to see more information on what PHS is doing in the community. Mrs. Straniero stated that the staff is out doing many events and forming partnerships with other agencies. Ms. Roman stated that more information on the communicable diseases within the county would be interesting to see.

c. Administration Update

The Administration report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Mrs. Wendell explained that an additional supplemental appropriation was being requested to increase contract services, salaries and equipment. This is to cover the fees for the Interim EH Director, to cover salaries for the balance of the year and to purchase three vehicles.

We have begun sending out requests for bids to installers and applications to residents for the WPCLF. Three properties were submitted, but only two received any bids. Mr. Lark will work on reformatting the information for the property and it will be sent out.

1. Finance Report

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

Ms. Roman moved to approve the April 2022 financial reports. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Administrator/Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Litke again explained the FSP is very far behind. There are not many counties that require mandatory septic inspections because of how labor intensive it is. He would move putting a moratorium on the program. We would then transition to the O & M program which is required by State law. Keeping FSP and O & M would require hiring significantly more staff.

The prosecutor's office has stated that anyone that has had property transfer prior to the end date would still be required to have a FSP evaluation done.

Discussion continued about putting the moratorium in place now. Mr. Litke stated that some planning needs to be done prior to ending the program. He wants to assure the correct information gets to the public, realtors, and installers. Mr. Litke, Mr. Lark and Mrs. Wendell will work on the message.

Another sanitarian has resigned. We have advertised, but haven't had any applicants. Mr. Litke is working on a solution to help with that situation.

Mr. Litke reported that five to ten people are coming in a day, four days a week for COVID vaccine. It has been rumored that the ODH contract nurses will be going away. ODH is also talking about charging for the vaccine. We do not have the staff to continue those clinics and continue working the grants. Mrs. Straniero stated that they would like to transition to twice a month, with scheduled appointments.

Mr. Litke reported he was asked to present at the Burton Rotary on May 4, 2022. They asked for information about Geauga Public Health and the Board.

Mr. Litke stated he is considering hiring an additional clerk to augment EH and to have a backup clerk for Vital Stats.

Mr. Litke has been told to estimate our rent for the new building to be \$30,000.00. He has not received a contract and does not know if it includes utilities. The actual move date is still being communicated May or June.

Ms. Roman stated that the by-laws should be reviewed soon.

Executive Session

Ms. Roman moved to adjourn to executive session at 6:37 pm to discuss pending litigation with counsel and matters related to personnel and compensation and pending litigation. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes. Meeting reconvened at 8:58 pm.

The Board received a memo from the Administrator proposing to abolish the position of O & M Manager. The reason for the abolishment is included efficiency and economy. **Mrs. Brakey moved to abolish the O & M Manager position. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Ms. Jones, abstain; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.**

Old Business

a. HDAC Meeting

HDAC was not discussed.

b. Budget Commission

Geauga Public Health was commended for the budgeting and changes that have been made. The Budget Commission approved the 2023 budget with no changes.

New Business

a. David Gragg Appreciation

Mr. Gragg was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Litke had a resolution and plaque to show our appreciation or ten years of service on the Geauga County Board of Health.

b. Resolution 2022-4 Then & Now

Ms. Jones moved to approve Resolution 2022-4 Payment of a Then & Now purchase order to the Ohio Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing not to exceed \$27.50. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.

c. Resolution 2022-5 Repurposing or Creating a New Fund

Ms. Jones moved to approve Resolution 2022-5 to repurpose and rename fund 6030 –Environmental Health Workshops to Emergency Response or create a new fund for the purpose of Emergency Response. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.

d. Resolution 2022-6 Then & Now

Ms. Jones moved to approve Resolution 2022-6 Payment of a Then & Now purchase order to the Geauga County Clerk of Courts not to exceed \$222.00. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.

e. Supplemental Appropriations

Ms. Jones moved to approve the Supplemental Appropriations in funds 6002-Board of Health and 6023-Sewage as presented. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Meetings

Regular Board of Health meeting, **Wednesday, May 25, 2022** 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
Administrator

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