

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2022, 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, Dr. Patricia Levan and Ashley Jones, Pharm.D. Lynn Roman was not present.

Staff members present: Dr. J. Jeffrey Cameron, Health Commissioner, Adam Litke, Interim Health Administrator; Carol Straniero, Nursing Director; and David Sage, Environmental Health Director.

Others present: There were approximately 20 others present including Company 119 who was live-streaming the meeting to YouTube.

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 January 12, 2022 special meeting and January 26, 2022 regular meeting of the Board. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. He reported that Adult Protective Services contacted the office to work together to help remove an elderly person from a hazardous living conditions. Geauga Public Health has helped with these in the past. We can only provide guidance regarding lack of water or waste removal in the home and solid waste issues indoors. This is a collaborative effort between many different agencies. The goal is to help the resident realize it is not a safe situation for them and to assist them with finding an alternative.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. She went on to report that Geauga County is ranked one of the worst for lead exposure in children. Only 10% of children in the county get tested for lead. The Geauga County high school dropout rate is 15% with the national average being 3.9%. She said that the special demographics of Geauga County may be affecting that rate. Uninsured children rates are 16.4% with the state average being 4.6% and the national average is 5.7%. Mothers who smoke during pregnancy is at 7.8%, which is below the state average but higher than national average. These statistics are what Geauga Public Health uses when looking for grants.

c. Administration Update

Mrs. Wendell provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. She explained the reason the Board is being asked to approve the Revenue Certification and Supplemental Appropriation motions in New Business. The appropriation motions are to cover expenses that may be incurred as part of the move. Mr. Litke stated that the Revenue Certification was a result of receiving extra funds for one of the grants.

1. Finance Report

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

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the February 2022 financial reports. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Administrator Update

Mr. Litke reported that he recently attended the Chardon School Board meeting. It began at 6:45 pm and ended at 11:45 pm. The meeting was about reconfiguration of where the children go to class. He also stated that Bill Kermavner, Superintendent of Cardinal Schools submitted his resignation recently. He is a big loss for the community. He balanced the pro-covid/non-covid people very well. The Superintendent positions are not ones that are easy to fill. All of them are valued members of the community.

Three different software programs have received approval from the ADP Board. This will help the Epidemiologic team. Up until this point, everything has been done on paper. Mr. Litke would like to provide more statistics to the residents. We have also received approval to purchase an iPad which will help our social media staff to develop videos.

We continue to monitor the progress of our space in the new building. The tentative move date is end of May or beginning of June.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Piraino outlined the process and policies for providing public comment. Mr. Litke clarified that comments made during a live stream of the meeting will not be addressed. 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.

Executive Session

Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn to executive session at 5:34 pm to discuss pending litigation with counsel and matters of personnel and compensation. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes. Meeting reconvened at 7:23 pm.

As a result of discussion during executive session, the following motion was made: **Mr. Gragg moved to appoint Adam Litke as GPH Administrator effective February 24, 2022 and to amend his contract by eliminating the word "interim". Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes.**

Mr. Gragg explained that Mr. Litke has been with GPH for many years. He was instrumental in getting our audits back on track. He has assisted in the transitions of the different health commissioners.

In 2021, GPH became accredited and would not have been possible without the hard work of the staff and Mr. Litke. He has been praised by many agencies and community groups. He has been willing to listen and be open to the opinions of the residents of Geauga County. Mr. Gragg stated that those are only some of the reasons Mr. Litke was chosen for the position.

Mr. Gragg moved to enter into a legal agreement with Flannery Georgalis law firm and hire Bryan Kostura as the Board's attorney and authorize Mr. Litke to sign contracts upon presentation. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes.

Old Business

- a. EH Committee Meetings

There have been no meetings held.

- b. Administrator Update

Mr. Litke went to the Chardon School meeting. It was a long meeting.

New Business

- a. Proposed 2023 Geauga Public Health Budget

Mr. Litke reviewed the proposed budget with the Board. The proposed budget is the best estimate at this time. Adjustments to this budget will be made in November 2022.

Once the Board approves, this is the budget that will be presented at the HDAC meeting and then the Budget Commission.

Mr. Gragg moved 2.23.22-a to approve the 2023 Geauga Public Health budget as presented. Dr. Levan, yes. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes.

b. Revenue Certification and Supplemental Appropriations

Mr. Gragg moved 2.23.22-b to approve the Revenue Certification and Supplemental Appropriation requests as presented. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes.

c. Conduent Community Health Services

Mr. Gragg moved 2.23.22-c to approve the contract with Conduent Community Health Services to provide services to develop the Geauga County Community Needs Assessment not to exceed \$40,000.00. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes.

d. Geauga Public Health Levy

The current levy has been the same amount for about 25 years. We receive between \$500,000.00 and \$600,000.00 per year. With 25 staff, that funding doesn't cover much. We have trouble recruiting staff because our wages are low. With inflation increasing, this is even more of a problem. The current levy will be expiring in 2023.

The rest of health district funding comes from grants and fees. Mr. Litke stated that we don't have many grants and the ones we do have been reduced over the years.

Mr. Litke reminded everyone that as public employees, the GPH staff cannot work on the levy unless it's on a volunteer basis, not on work time. Funding to run the campaign is needed as well as someone to do the legwork. More discussion will be needed at future Board meetings.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Meetings

Special meeting of the Board of Health, **Thursday, March 3, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

Regular Board of Health meeting, **Monday, March 21, 2022** at 5:00 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

Annual HDAC meeting, **Wednesday, March 23, 2022** at 7:30 p.m. at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke
Administrator