

Geauga Public Health  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 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 5:03 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: Adam Litke, Interim Health Administrator; Carol Straniero, Nursing Director; and David Sage, Environmental Health Director.

Others present: There were 9 members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Health Commissioner Position

Mr. Piraino introduced Dr. J. Jeffrey Cameron. Dr. Cameron applied to be the Geauga County Health Commissioner and was recently interviewed.

**Mr. Gragg moved to appoint Dr. J. Jeffrey Cameron as Geauga County Health Commissioner and Medical Director. 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 Mrs. Jones, yes.**

The Board stated that they were looking forward to working with Dr. Cameron.

Approval of Board Minutes

**Ms. Roman moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2021 regular meeting of the Board. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Executive Session

**Mr. Gragg moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss pending litigation with counsel and matters of personnel. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Jones, yes.** Meeting reconvened at 8:30 pm.

Old Business

a. EH Committee Meetings

Mrs. Jones reported that the committee met January 12, 2022 to continue discussing the Operation and Maintenance Program. She stated that the committee is focusing on educating the residents as to what kind of systems they have.

b. Health Commissioner and Administrator Positions

Mr. Piraino welcomed Dr. Cameron as the Geauga County Health Commissioner. Dr. Reid's contract will end on January 31, 2022 and Dr. Cameron's contract is effective February 1, 2022.

Mr. Gragg stated that there were nine resumes submitted in response to the administrator position. Interviews for the administrator position will be scheduled soon. The plan is to have the position filled before the next Board of Health meeting.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Sage provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. He reported that the Solid Waste survey was completed this week and he expects within the next month or two to receive a letter from the Ohio EPA indicating Geauga Public Health is in compliance.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. Ms. Roman asked Mrs. Straniero to share statistics with the public in attendance. The following are the zip codes which need the most improvement on vaccine administration. These numbers include anyone who has received at least 1 dose. Of the residents in zip code 44062, only 24% has received at least one dose. Residents in zip code 44046 are at a 31% vaccination rate. Children 5 to 11 years are at a 23% vaccination rate for the whole county.

From December 6 to January 6, there were 389 positive students, 83 positive staff, 503 exposed students and 21 exposed staff. There have been 16 adult deaths and no children deaths. This makes the conversion rate 4.01%. The Ohio Department of Health is changing the conversion rates and focusing more on outbreaks. This new guidance was released from ODH late today. Mrs. Straniero will be reviewing it further.

There have been no children hospitalized, 118 adults hospitalized, and 31 deaths. There were 3045 cases for December. One child was diagnosed with multisystem inflammatory syndrome.

c. Administration Update

Mrs. Wendell provided information to the Board prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

1. Finance Report

Mr. Litke explained variations in the revenue and expense items shown on the finance report. The Board was asked to approve an appropriation changes in New Business.

**Ms. Roman moved to approve the January 2022 financial reports. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

d. Administrator Update

Mr. Litke informed the Board that the he and the directors will be doing a walk-through of the health district space in the new county building. There are still many things to be done. He discussed some logistics of the move process.

New Business

**Mr. Gragg moved 1.26.22-a to adopt resolution 2022-1 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Treasurer, State of Ohio for a 2018 State Camp license. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Gragg moved 1.26.22-b to increase the 6002-Board of Health, Unemployment fund by \$25,000.00 and the 6021-PHEP, Other expense fund by \$5,000.00. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

**Mr. Gragg moved 1.26.22-c to adopt Resolution 2022-1 authorizing Adam Litke, Interim Administrator to apply for, accept and enter into a WPCLF agreement with the Ohio EPA. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

There is a scheduling conflict for the March and December 2022 regular Board meetings. After discussion, it was decided the March meeting will be held March 21, 2022 and the December meeting will be held on December 19, 2022.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Litke outlined the process for providing public comment. He reminded the group to be courteous to the other commenters and the Board of Health.

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

Other Business

**Mr. Gragg moved to approve a resolution in appreciation of Dr. Jennifer Williams-Reid for her service to Geauga Public Health and the residents of Geauga County. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Meetings

Regular Board of Health meeting, **Wednesday, February 23, 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 at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke  
Interim Administrator