

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
June 22, 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, Ashley Jones, Pharm D, Lynn Roman, and Carolyn Brakey, Esq. Dr. Patricia Levan was not present.

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

Others present: There were 10 others present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Board Minutes

Mrs. Jones moved to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2022 special meeting of the Board, with minor corrections. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Mrs. Brakey asked that acronyms not be used so the public has a better understanding. **Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; Ms. Roman, abstain; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.**

Mrs. Brakey moved to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2022 regular meeting of the Board. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mrs. Jones, abstain; Ms. Roman, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Lark reported that the two new-hires are working out very well. He hopes to have them out working on their own soon.

All the Water Pollution Control Loan funds (WPCLF) has been earmarked for repairs to septic systems for qualified individuals. Geauga Public Health (GPH) was awarded \$150,000.00 for 2022.

An action plan was required from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for the State Campground program. Mr. Lark reported that the plan has been developed and most of the corrections have already been implemented. A training program will be taking place for staff in the next few days.

The Semi-Public Sewage system program (HB110) inspections have begun. We are on track to have those completed.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero stated that the staff attended the Caveman Crawl sponsored by the Geauga Park District. Staff provided education material on ticks and mosquitos. Our epidemiologist obtained tick signs from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to give to the park district to post along the trails. There have been several ticks submitted to GPH for identification with one being identified as a black legged tick. This type of tick has been known to carry Lyme disease.

A tick flag has been ordered and received. The flag is dragged along a property line to collect ticks. The collected ticks are then sent to ODH for identification.

Mrs. Straniero and Sarah Sullivan attended a Foodborne Outbreak Training sponsored by the Portage County Health Department and ODH. The training focused on the proper way to collect food and specimens for testing in the case of a foodborne outbreak.

Sherri Carroll, Registrar has submitted her resignation. Mrs. Straniero stated that Ms. Carroll resigned to go to Ashtabula County Health Dept. due to salary and the drive to the new county building. Mrs. Straniero also reported that the new health educator, Bri Barry did not pass the probationary period and a part-time public health nurse has submitted her resignation. Mrs. Straniero will be interviewing for those positions.

Mr. Litke thanked Mrs. Straniero and Magaly Rios for doing more outreach in the county.

Mrs. Straniero reported that there were six cases of COVID reported for the day. There have been 34 cases since the last meeting. There was one child hospitalized, 14 adults hospitalized and the average daily rate was 11.6 cases per day. No deaths have been reported.

COVID clinics are being held four days per week, but overall interest has declined drastically. There has been more interest in the pediatric vaccine. We are still using the state nurses for those clinics, but that contract is due to expire soon. Using those nurses still takes up some of the staff's time because there must be oversight.

COVID clinics may be scaled back to make best use of resources. This will be discussed in the future to benefit the residents.

c. Administration Update

Mrs. Wendell reported that a new clerk has been hired and will begin July 23, 2022. Job duties have been restructured to make the work more uniform. This is also been a great opportunity to cross train the staff. In the meantime, Mrs. Wendell has been filling in providing support with phone calls and the plumbing program.

The kiosk has been ordered for customers to check in. The customers will log in and a notification will go to the appropriate clerk(s). This will allow for more uniform coverage. The setup and operation can be done all in-house.

The Board was asked to approve Supplemental Appropriations in New Business. This change will carry us through the rest of the year.

1. Finance Report

Mr. Litke presented the finance report and answered questions from the Board.

Mrs. Roman moved to approve the June 2022 financial reports. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.

d. Administrator/Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Litke will be attending the school superintendent's meeting to continue to build the community partnership.

GPH will be moving to the new building beginning July 7, 2022. Mr. Litke, Mrs. Straniero and Mrs. Wendell cancelled their scheduled time off to oversee the moving of their division. Mr. Litke and Mrs. Wendell have a meeting with NV5 to discuss some outstanding items. Furniture for Senior Leadership will not be delivered until the week of July 11, 2022. Some furniture from the current building will be moved to accommodate.

Mr. Litke and Mr. Piraino will be meeting with Kent State University to discuss possible interns.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

a. Supplemental Appropriation

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

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.

Executive Session

Mrs. Jones moved to adjourn to executive session at 6:05 pm to discuss pending litigation with counsel. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Meetings

Regular Board of Health meeting, **Wednesday, July 27, 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

JW