

Geauga Public Health  
Board of Health Special Meeting Minutes  
For Sale of Property  
May 17, 2022, 5:00p.m.  
470 Center Street, Bldg. 8, Chardon, OH 44024

Opening Session

a. Call to Order

Mr. Richard Piraino, President, called the special meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 5:01 p.m.

A roll call was not done but the following Board members were present: Mr. Richard Piraino, President, Ashley Jones, Pro-Tem, Dr. Patricia Levan, and Carolyn Brakey, Esq. Lynn Roman was not present.

Staff members present Adam Litke, Administrator, Dan Lark, Interim Environmental Health Director and Joel Weiss, Clerical Specialist.

Others present: There were 15 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.

Mr. Piraino confirmed the evenings meeting would address the For Sale of Property program that is currently required in Geauga County.

Information Session

Mr. Litke introduced Dan Lark, Interim Environmental Health Director. He is a shared asset with Lake County Health District.

Mr. Lark gave a review of the FSP program, stating Geauga Public Health is backlogged with over 3000 open evaluations needing to be initiated or completed. We currently have 2 to 3 years of backlogged evaluations that must be completed per the prosecutor's office. Administrative Hearings are being attended weekly. Mr. Lark estimated that it would take 3 full time Sanitarians doing nothing but FSP evaluations in order for GPH to move forward in a timely manner. There are many other programs that must be done as well.

Semi-public sewage systems evaluations are also behind. There are over 200 in Geauga County. Some of the semi-public systems are required to be inspected yearly and we are required to provide the EPA with our findings in a yearly report.

There are over 1000 open sewage permits that are not complete because information was not completed by installers or inspectors.

Mr. Lark reported that the State Camp program needs work and that nuisance complaints need to be followed up.

Mr. Litke stated that too many programs at GPH are competing for time against the For Sale of Property program. The FSP is not a State mandated program like the O&M program.

The Operation and Maintenance program needs to be moved on. The Ohio Department of Health has set January 1, 2025 as the date that the counties need to show progress on their O&M program. Mr. Litke stated if both FSP & O&M programs are in place together, GPH would have to significantly increase staffing. The point was brought up that O&M is pro-active and FSP is re-active.

Mr. Litke would like to look into details of utilizing installers and possibly contractors who may be able to assist us in clearing up some of the backlogged properties. Residents do not deserve the service they are receiving. Mr. Litke suggested a date of January 1, 2023 to begin the O&M program and to begin with NPDES systems.

Mr. Lark stated that when the O&M program begins, we will work on the educational pieces, the computer program, the website and try make the process easier for the public.

Mr. Litke introduced Mr. Gerry Morgan, Geauga County Administrator, who will help with educational pieces with the county.

The Board asked why the FSP program can't end immediately? Mr. Litke responded that we need to be make sure we can work out most of the problems and to educate realtors.

The President of Lake and Geauga Realtors along with Ohio Realtors will work with Geauga County Public Health to educate the realtors as well as the residents Geauga County on the end date of FSP. She brought documentation on the O&M program and how it is working in other counties. The Ohio Realtors will help roll out information. A 6-week lead time is very doable with social media, mailers and website. The message needs to be clear to all who will be involved or may be impacted by the changes in the program. It is possible homes that are in the process of being sold now will miss the June 30, 2022 end date.

Mr. Litke stated education is key going forward. We will utilize Magaly Rios in this process of getting the message out. Social media, website updates and possible flyers will all need to be addressed so we are giving the correct message. Some home loans will still require a FSP inspection.

Mr. Morgan stated again the importance on education so that Geauga County continues to be a septic county.

Mr. Morgan stated that ARPA funds are still currently available.

Mr. Lark stated that the O&M program may start with inspections/ evaluations on NPDES systems because it would be a tangible goal. Septic systems that are not being tested could potentially be causing a public health nuisance. The plan is to work with service providers to look at how we will handle the process when looking at all of the different septic systems in the county.

**Mrs. Brakey moved to discontinue the mandatory For Sale of Property program on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 11:59 pm. All transactions prior to that date and time are still subject to inspection by Geauga Public Health. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes, Ms. Jones, abstain; Dr. Levan, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes.**

Mr. Piraino commented on the great work Mr. Lark is doing and thanked him.

#### Public Comment Session

Mr. Piraino outlined the process and policies for providing public comment. Those who wanted to speak were given 2 minutes each to provide their comment.

#### Other Business

There was no other business.

#### Meetings

Regular Board of Health meeting, **Tuesday, May 24, 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