

Geauga Public Health
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
May 24, 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 5:00 p.m.

A roll call found the following Board members present: Mr. Richard Piraino, Lynn Roman, Dr. Patricia Levan, Carolyn Brakey. Ashley Jones, Pharm D. was not present.

Staff members present: Dr. J. Jeffrey Cameron, Health Commissioner, Adam Litke, Administrator, Dan Lark, Interim Environmental Health Director and Joel Weis, Clerical Specialist.

Others present: There were 6 others present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Board Minutes

Dr. Levan moved to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2022 regular meeting of the Board. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with four yes and one abstention by Ashley Jones, Pharm. D. Adam Litke stated that the meeting minutes from May 17, 2022 will be available for approval at the next board meeting due to the turnaround time.

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Lark gave the updates for Environmental Health stating that septic evaluations are being scheduled 3 to 4 weeks out at this time. Our new hire Ashley Winters, is working out well and is currently doing septic evaluations, She is also helping Mia Kruggel with pool inspections. Mr. Lark stated he reached out to a professor with Cleveland State to see if there is any interest with students who may want to intern/ work with GPH.

Mr. Litke reported that he asked Alta Wendell to reach out to local colleges to generate interest in GPH. Mr. Litke stated there is a bidding war between counties when it comes to new hires with in the field. The question was raised to Mr. Litke by the board, if we need to increase our pay rate. Mr. Litke stated we just had an increase but it may need to be re-evaluated.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero was not present at the meeting, Mr. Litke reported on Population Health.

The Community Health Assessment that was administered to the residents of Geauga County did not have a great response. Out of 93,000 people we have roughly received back 300 responses. Mr. Litke stated this is not substantial feedback. The feeling is that the questions are too personal, there are too many questions and maybe we GPH should not be the ones who are creating the questions. Dr. Levan suggested to use the group from Medicare to help with the creation of questions. The Board will receive results when the data is complete

Covid booster questions were raised. Dr. Cameron stated that the virus has changed and the children of Geauga County seem to be faring well 80% of children are immune and there is not a huge push to vaccinate children. Dr. Levan stated the mortality rate in children is extremely low and vaccination is the parent's decision. Dr. Levan compared the vaccination to giving last year's flu shot to this years flu.

The question was brought up regarding the baby formula shortage, Mr. Litke stated that Geauga County will have a WIC office in the near future but WIC cannot accept formula due to tampering issues. At this point we have no resources for baby formula but are encouraged to help individuals who are looking. Questions about hoarding baby formula was addressed. It was stated that retail stores are limiting the purchase per household.

c. Administration Update

Mrs. Wendell was not present at the meeting. There was information given by Mr. Litke pertaining to administration updates. One Clerical Specialist has given notice and took a position closer to home with better pay. The question was raised again if GPH needs to do a better job with pay/ incentives? Mr. Litke made the point of saying that with the cost of gas, he has given directives to Directors to come up with a work- from- home model. Sanitarians may have flexibility to take county cars home and they would then start their day from home. Some positions will not work remotely or are hard to grant a work from home status such as Vital Stats. Controls need to be in place for work at home/ remote positions.

Mr. Litke stated that the Personnel Policy is being updated

1. Finance Report

Karolyn Johnson was not present at the meeting to present the financial report. The finance report was presented per Adam Litke.

Mr. Piraino moved to approve the May 2022 financial reports. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

d. Administrator/Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Litke provided information about the move/ new building. New signage has not been placed. Parking is still an ongoing issue. The move looks like it will now happen in July. There has been no staffing decision for the front lobby desk. Mr. Litke stated things are coming together. The question was raised, is Administration looking into new hire incentives, how can we keep employees, pay increases, longevity incentives? Mr. Litke again stated many ideas are out there and the issues have been discussed with Directors that may help with travel/ gas cost, work from home incentives and possible re-evaluation of pay.

Old Business

Mrs. Brakey moved to rescind section 3701-29-25 of the Geauga County Household Sewage Treatment rules pertaining to For Sale of Property septic evaluations, effective June 30, 2022. Any property that has transferred on or prior to June 30, 2022 will be required to complete the evaluation. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote, Richard Piraino, yes; Lynn Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Carolyn Brakey, yes

New Business

Ms. Roman moved to approve Resolution 2022-7 Payment of a Then & Now purchase order to the Geauga County Clerk of Courts not to exceed \$434.65. Mrs. Brakey, seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote, Richard Piraino, yes; Lynn Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, yes; and Carolyn Brakey, yes.

Mrs. Brakey moved to approve the Revenue Certification for fund 6030 (Emergency Response Fund), Cash Transfer for 6002 (Board of Health) and 6030 (Emergency Response Fund), and Supplemental Appropriations for 6011 (Private Water), 6030 (Emergency Response Fund) and 6037 (For Sale of Property) funds as presented. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote, Richrd Piraino, yes; Lynn Roman, yes; Dr. Levan, 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

Mr. Piraino moved to adjourn to executive session at 6:27 pm to discuss pending litigation with counsel and matters related to personnel and compensation. Dr. Levan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes Mrs. Brakey, yes; Ms. Roman, yes and Dr. Levan, yes. Meeting reconvened at 7:42pm

Mrs. Brakey did not return to open session.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Meetings

Regular Board of Health meeting, **Wednesday, June 22, 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