

Geauga Public Health
Special Board of Health Meeting Minutes
December 28, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, Ohio

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, Ashley Jones, Pharm D, Lynn Roman, and Carolyn Brakey, Esq. Dr. Mark Rood was not present.

Staff members present: Adam Litke, Administrator and Dr. Jefferey Cameron, Health Commissioner

Others present: There was 1 other present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

New Business

a. Operations Planning

Mrs. Brakey stated that she and Ms. Roman will be meeting weekly with Ron Graham beginning next week through the end of April 2023. Mr. Graham has already provided some resources that lays out what the health district must do by law. It ties function to the Ohio Revised Code.

Ms. Roman stated that they will also be looking to other counties to see if there is any interest in collaborating with Geauga Public Health.

b. Administrator and Environmental Health Director positions

The Board discussed the Administrator position. There are a total of 20 applicants to date. There are approximately three or four applicants that will be interviewed. The first round will be via Zoom. Once the first interview is complete, in-person interviews will be scheduled. The timeline is very quick for this process.

The Board asked if Geauga Public Health would be paying the expenses for those that are out of state. Mr. Litke will contact the prosecutor's office to inquire.

Ms. Jones provided a draft of the email that will be sent to the applicants to schedule the first interview. There were a few changes suggested. She explained the process that she and Ms. Roman used to choose which applicants would be interviewed.

The Administrator posting will remain open until filled. The Environmental Health Director position will not be filled at this time. The new Administrator would be responsible for hiring the EH Director.

Mr. Piraino stated that the other options need to be considered besides hiring an Administrator and EH Director. He felt that the Board should look at collaborating with another health department to do the services. He stated that the Board should be looking at the other options even while interviewing applicants.

The Ohio Department of Health has indicated that they would not get involved or provide guidance until the Board has a plan to present. At that time, they will provide input.

Mr. Piraino raised the question of being fiscally responsible. Mr. Litke reminded the Board that there are cash reserves, but the balance would be drawn down over time. Any deficit would be covered for many years. The difference is planning for those years. The levy is 25 years old. It does not cover the expenses it did at its' inception.

Ms. Roman stated that Geauga has a small population and health districts with smaller populations have difficulty surviving without combining with another. She stated that there is more efficiency with larger groups working together.

The Board asked for a list of all the services Geauga Public Health currently provides.

Executive Session

Ms. Jones moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss appointment, employment, and compensation of employees at 5:29 pm. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Jones, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; and Mrs. Brakey, yes. Mr. Litke stated that there would be no action taken after executive session. Meeting reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

Meetings

Special Board of Health meeting, January 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, Ohio.

Special Board of Health meeting, January 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, Ohio.

Special Board of Health meeting, January 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, Ohio.

Regular Board of Health meeting, January 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, Ohio.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke
Administrator