

Geauga Public Health  
Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2023, 5:00 p.m.  
12611 Ravenwood Dr., 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; Ashley Jones, Pharm D; Lynn Roman; Carolyn Brakey, Esq.; and Dr. Mark Rood.

Staff members present: Dr. Jeffrey Cameron, Health Commissioner; Adam Litke, Administrator; and Dan Lark, Interim Environmental Health Director.

Others present: There were eight others in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Board Minutes

**Dr. Rood moved to approve the minutes for the December 12, 2022, special meeting, December 19, 2022, regular meeting, December 28, 2022, special meeting, January 4, 2023, special meeting, January 11, 2023, special meeting, January 18, 2023, special meeting, and January 25, 2023, regular meeting of the Board of Health as amended. Ms. Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Information Session

a. Environmental Health Update

Mr. Lark stated that the environmental health staff are working hard to keep up with the workload.

b. Population Health Update

Mrs. Straniero provided information regarding the Population Health Division.

Dr. Rood stated that he is seeing less flu and COVID hospitalization cases. Most illnesses he is seeing are cold-related.

Ms. Roman commented that the new website looks very nice and is easy to navigate.

Mr. Litke has generated posts for the website and Facebook regarding the contamination issues in East Palestine to help with resident's questions. He has reached out to OEPA about well testing in Geauga County. He is expecting a call from them to discuss if that is something Geauga Public Health wants to offer. He said there is a lot of misconceptions about how the contamination may or may not affect Geauga County.

Geauga Public Health and Geauga County Soil and Water are planning a joint Facebook post about watersheds, flows, and aquifers. A meeting is being planned to help residents understand waterflow and how to care for their well.

c. Administration Division Update

Mrs. Wendell provided a report regarding the Administration Division to the Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Litke stated that a clerk.

d. Administrator/Health Commissioner Update

Mr. Litke provided a copy of the 2022 Geauga Public Health Annual Report to the Board. The report will be distributed at the Health District Advisory Council (HDAC) meeting in March. It will also be posted on the website.

The first well has been drilled in Parkman as a result of the contamination. The well was 180 feet deep and showed high iron content. That well will be sealed, and another drilled into the Berea aquifer at 300 feet. If that well is acceptable, the other wells will be drilled.

There are other wells in that area that have been found with potential contamination. After a certain number are identified, it could turn into a situation where a community well would be needed. This is the usual progression when a community has so many contaminated wells.

The Annual Financial Report (AFR) is due March 1, 2023. The two-year state audit will begin soon after. Mr. Litke will be working with Karolyn Johnson, Fiscal Coordinator to prepare.

Because of a change in funding thresholds, Geauga Public Health is no longer eligible for the Get Vaccinated Ohio grant. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has set the threshold to \$30,000.00. Geauga Public Health is eligible for approximately \$26,000.00. Mr. Litke stated that partnering with Lake County would make Geauga Public Health eligible for the grant.

Mr. Litke has met with Faith Coalition. They are planning a day in June for mental health awareness and will have activities for the children and information for parents.

The Board passed a resolution last month requiring septic approval of lot splits to 5 acres and under. The Geauga County Planning Commission changed their rule similarly to 5.0001 acres and under.

1. Finance Report

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

Mr. Piraino stated that there is approximately \$25,000.00 allocated for emergencies. He felt that that it should be increased. Mr. Litke stated he was planning to transfer an additional \$225,000.00 into the fund to cover vehicle purchases and cover other agency emergencies.

**Ms. Roman moved to approve the February 2023 financial reports. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.**

Old Business

a. Operations Planning

Mrs. Brakey reported that she and Ms. Roman continue to meet with Ron Graham weekly to discuss the cooperative agreement.

b. Administrator and Environmental Health Director Positions

Ms. Jones stated communication was sent to the candidates informing them that this is on hold.

New Business

a. Resolution 2023-3 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Agreement

Mr. Lark explained that this a grant that helps residents with failing systems within a certain income level replace failing system. There may be other funding sources which Mr. Lark will be investigating.

**Ms. Roman moved to adopt Resolution 2023-3 authorizing Adam Litke, Administrator, to apply for, accept and enter into the 2023 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund agreement with the Ohio EPA. Dr. Rood seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Jones, abstain; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Brakey, yes; and Dr. Rood, yes.**

b. Health Commissioner Contract

Mr. Litke reported that this is a month-to-month contract. Mr. Piraino stated that the contract was signed on January 31, 2023.

**Dr. Rood moved to appoint Dr. John Jeffrey Cameron as Geauga County Health Commissioner and Medical Director, effective January 1, 2023, not to exceed \$14,300.00 per year. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Jones, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Brakey, yes; and Dr. Rood, yes.**

c. Health District Advisory Council Meeting

The Health District Advisory Council (HDAC) meeting will be held March 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Suite B333-B334. Mr. Piraino's seat on the Board expires this year. The HDAC will be appointing a Board of Health member. Jonathon Tiber, Claridon Township Trustee and HDAC Chairperson, provided the timeline for the applicants and gave a brief summary of the council's role.

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](mailto:info@geaugacountyhealth.org) and their comments will be forwarded to the Board.

There were six people who requested to speak and was given two minutes to provide their comment.

Executive Session

**Dr. Rood moved to adjourn to executive session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss matters pending litigation, personnel including appointment, employment, discipline, and compensation. Mrs. Brakey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Mrs. Jones, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Brakey, yes; and Dr. Rood, yes.** Meeting reconvened at 9:59 p.m.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Meetings

Annual Health District Advisory Council Meeting, March 15, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Ste. B333 & B334, Chardon, Ohio.

Regular Board of Health meeting, March 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Ste. B303 Chardon, Ohio.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke  
Administrator

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