

Geauga Public Health
Special Board of Health Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023, 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, Carolyn Brakey, Esq., and Dr. Mark Rood.

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

Others present: There were 3 others present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

New Business

a. Geauga Public Health Levy

Dr. Rood expressed his concern about trying to get a levy on the ballot for May. He stated that the Board will not know what option that will be taken regarding operations until after the filing deadline of February. He feels that the Board should wait and put the levy on the ballot in November.

Mr. Litke stated that there would be more issues on the ballot in November which will cost the health district less. He also stated that trying to get everything ready by February would strain personnel resources. At this time of year, there are financial reports that must be completed.

Dr. Rood said that someone other than a Board member needs to oversee the committee. It will take time to find that person. The Board agreed to postpone putting the levy on the ballot until November.

b. Operations Planning

Ms. Roman stated that an agreement with Lake County Health District has been completed and approved by Ron Graham, which will end June 30, 2023. Ms. Roman distributed copies to the Board. There were a few comments. Mrs. Brakey will reach out to Bryan Kostura to discuss the comments.

Ms. Roman stated that they reached out to other counties to see if they would be interested in meeting to discuss a cooperative agreement. Portage and Trumbull County said they would be interested in such discussion. Summit County declined. Ashtabula County did not respond.

Ms. Roman and Mrs. Brakey spoke with Portage County who indicated they did not feel they had enough information to decide. They also felt it would be at least a year before they could provide any services due to developing legal agreements and hiring staff. The Portage County health commissioner provided an alternative contact at the Ohio Department of Health to possibly get some guidance.

Ms. Roman and Mrs. Brakey will be meeting with Trumbull County next week.

During their weekly meeting with Ron Graham, Mrs. Brakey, and Ms. Roman discussed which positions to potentially contract with regards to staff and what the pay ranges and benefit ranges would be.

Mr. Litke asked to pull one staff member from Lake County to assist in Environmental Health. The Board had no objection but wanted to know the number of hours he is considering. Mr. Litke said he will have Dan Lark present it at the next meeting.

c. Administrator and Environmental Health Director positions

Ms. Roman and Ms. Jones have conducted three of the four interviews. The final candidate interview will be tomorrow. The questions asked are documented. At the end of the interviews, Ms. Roman and Ms. Jones disclosed to the candidates, that a final decision regarding whether or not the administrator roll will be part of Geauga Public Health or part of the county in which we do a cooperative agreement with will be decided 2 to 3 weeks in the future. Once that decision is made, second interviews will be held, if that is the path the Board takes.

Ms. Jones stated that all the candidates were very qualified. The posting is still active, so the total applicants has increased to 27.

Public Comment Session

There was one person who requested to speak and was given 2 minutes to provide their comment.

Executive Session

Ms. Roman moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss appointment, employment, and compensation of employees at 5:30 pm. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Ms. Roman stated no action would be taken after executive session. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Piraino, yes; Ms. Jones, yes; Ms. Roman, yes; Mrs. Brakey, yes; and Dr. Rood, yes.

Meetings

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke
Administrator