

Geauga Public Health  
Special Board of Health Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 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, Dr. Jefferey Cameron, Health Commissioner, and

Others present: There were 2 others present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

New Business

a. Operations Planning

Charles Walder, Geauga County Auditor, spoke about the reserve fund that Geauga Public Health would like to develop. He stated that he and his staff had reviewed the information and recommend that instead of beginning with \$300,000.00 reserve to increase it to \$1,000,000.00 reserve based on fixed assets. He based this on the fact that equipment and vehicle costs continue to increase.

He also spoke of the levy. Any money that was levied prior to 2013 is a qualified levy. A qualified levy is paid 87.5% by the taxpayers and 11.5% by the state. If the Board chooses a replacement levy, the taxpayers will pay 100%. The health district would receive more funding from a replacement levy, but the taxpayers would bear the cost.

The levy is a fixed millage levy. It is locked at .2 mil. However, the levy is not fixed revenue and can increase with property values and new construction.

There was discussion about having two levies on the ballot.

Dr. Rood asked how funds are raised to promote the levy. Mr. Walder stated that public officials cannot engage in the levy process. All they can do is present the finance information. This includes Board of Health members.

Typically, a committee is formed of people who understand the process and the reason for the levy. They would be the ones to promote levy. Mr. Walder stated he would send information to Mr. Litke that he could provide to the Board to help with understanding the levy process. He did stress that the request to be added to the ballot needed to be the Board of Elections 90 days prior to the election, which is February 1, 2023.

Dr. Rood stated that the levy should be added to the next meeting agenda due to the time constraints.

Ms. Roman, Mrs. Brakey, and Attorney Brian Kostura met with Ron Graham to try to understand the options for operation. This included discussing the pros and cons of a cooperative agreement.

Mr. Kostura will be drafting a contract for services until June 30, 2023, between Geauga Public Health and Lake County Health Department. Mr. Graham is working some different models and the cost of picking up part of the services.

Mrs. Brakey has reached out to neighboring counties to see if they are interested in a cooperative agreement. One county has indicated that they would like to discuss the possibility.

b. Administrator and Environmental Health Director positions

Ms. Jones stated that there were 24 applicants for the Administrator position to date. She and Ms. Roman reviewed candidates and have reached out to four to request interviews. Three have responded so far. Initial interviews are scheduled for January 9 and January 11, 2023. The scoring system that was developed will be used and the results brought back to the rest of the Board.

Ms. Roman stated that the lack of funding and other options that are being considered will be shared with the candidates.

Public Comment Session

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

Executive Session

**Dr. Rood moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss appointment, employment, and compensation of employees. Ms. Roman seconded the motion.** Ms. Jones 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 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Litke  
Administrator