

AGENDA
GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH
February 26, 2025

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Opening of Meeting

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Declaration of Quorum

2.03 Certification of Delivery of Official Notices of Meeting

3.0 Board of Health

3.01 Minutes, Regular Meeting January 15, 2025

4.0 Health District Staff Reports

4.01 Population Health Report

4.02 Environmental Health Report

4.03 Administrator's Report

4.04 Health Commissioner's Report

5.0 Old Business

No Old Business

6.0 New Business

6.01 Resolutions

6.01.01 Financial Reports, Resolution 25-02-06-01-01

6.01.02 Permission to Approve Appropriations for Increase/Decrease

6.01.03 Resolution 2025-7: Then and Now Purchase Order to Lake County
General Health District, Not to Exceed \$10,735.00

6.01.04 Resolution 2025-8: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County
Department of Water Resources, Not to Exceed \$3,760.00

6.01.05 Resolution 2025-9: Then and Now Purchase Order to The Baldwin
Group, Not to Exceed \$1,214.00

6.01.06 Resolution 2025-10: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County
ADP Board, Not to Exceed \$15,353.65

- 6.01.07 Resolution 2025-11: Then and Now Purchase Order to Green Acres Excavating and Sewer, Not to Exceed \$29,000.00
- 6.01.08 Resolution 2025-12: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Commissioners, Not to Exceed \$4,347.50
- 6.01.09 Resolution 2025-13: Then and Now Purchase Order to Lake County General Health District, Not to Exceed \$16,725.00
- 6.01.10 Resolution 2025-14: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County ADP, Not to Exceed \$65.00
- 6.01.11 Resolution 2025-15: Then and Now Purchase Order to Ohio Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, Not to Exceed \$167.50
- 6.01.12 Resolution 2025-16: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Commissioners, Not to Exceed \$4,559.89

- 6.02 Permission to Amend the Contract with HS GovTech, \$64,706.25

- 6.03 Permission to Approve the 2026 Geauga Public Health Budget

- 6.04 Resolution Authorizing Dan Lark, Administrator, to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Agreement on Behalf of Geauga Public Health of Geauga County for the Repair and Replacement of Home Sewage Treatment Systems

- 7.0 Citizens' Remarks
 - Session to last 20 minutes unless Board moves to extend.
 - 2 minutes per speaker to make comments and ask questions.
 - The Board will answer questions after having an opportunity to investigate responses following the meeting. This is not a press conference where answers should be expected on the spot.
 - Board responses will be recorded and publicly filed with meeting minutes.

- 8.0 Executive Session

- 9.0 Adjournment

1.0 Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, by President Mark Hendrickson. The meeting was held at the Geauga County Office Building located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon, Ohio.

2.0 Opening of Meeting

2.01 Declaration of Quorum

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Melissa DeBoth	Ashley Jones, Pharm D
Dr. Mark Hendrickson	Dr. Mark Rood

Minutes were recorded by Gina Parker/Heather Bushek.

Also present from the Health District staff:

Ron H. Graham, Health Commissioner	Dan Lark, Environmental Health Director
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Others Present: Members of the public were in attendance.

2.03 Certification of Delivery of Official Notices

Certification of delivery of the official notices of the regular meeting of the Board of Health was made by Ron H. Graham, Health Commissioner.

3.0 Board of Health

3.01 Approval of Minutes

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Dr. Mark Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025, Board of Health regular meeting; motion carried.

4.0 Health District Staff Reports

4.01 Population Health

4.01.01 Safe Communities

A coalition meeting was held on January 16, 2025. The representatives in attendance were from Ohio Traffic Safety Office, Lake Geauga Recovery Center, Geauga County Sheriff's Office, and Ohio State Highway Patrol. During this coalition meeting, Ella introduced herself as the new Health Educator and Coalition Coordinator. Each of the representatives introduced their roles in the coalition and what their positions are for the county.

The coalition reviewed any fatal accidents from October to December. There was one fatal crash in October and Lt. Jones on scene involving a car and motorcycle. The team discussed an increase in motorcycle related accidents and an increase in motorcycles being at fault. Discussed ThinkFast and what previous events have looked like and potential schools that may be interested. The team also began Maple Festival planning and progress with the contract and what each of the representatives do to help with events.

4.01.02 Other Population Health Activities

Project Dawn distribution for the month of December was five total kits distributed to the community and fifty kits distributed to emergency services/ law enforcement. Project Dawn distribution for the month of January was nine kits to the community and five kits to emergency services/ law enforcement.

Ella created social media content for Safe Communities focused on sober and safe winter driving. Along with Safe Communities content, Ella posted other content for GPH on topics included food safety, safety for keeping young children warm correctly in car seats, naloxone program reminder, and tips for safety with heating equipment in houses.

4.01.03 Grants

Get Vaccinated Ohio-Public Health Initiative (GVO)

- Documentation for our intent to apply for the Get Vaccinated Ohio grant has been submitted and our written application is due March 10, 2025.

4.01.04

Programs

Immunization Clinics

1. DDC Clinic 1/22/25

GPH saw 5 individuals at the 1/22/25 DDC clinic.

Vaccines administered:

- Vaxelis-2
- PCV-2
- ProQuad-3
- Tdap-1
- Polio-1

Zip codes for individuals seen:

- 44062-2
- 44099-2
- 44231-1

2. Children's Clinic 1/27/25

32 vaccines administered

GPH saw 19 individuals at the 1/27/25 vaccine clinic.

Vaccines administered:

- DTaP-3
- Pentacel-1
- Kinrix-1
- Vaxelis-4
- Flu-6
- ProQuad-1
- Polio-2
- MenACWY-1
- PCV-5
- Rotateq-1
- Tdap-2
- Varicella-5

Zip codes for individuals seen:

- 44021-9
- 44062-8
- 44065-2

3. TB Testing = 0

Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH)

- Melissa Kimbrough RN completed CMH training.
- The CMH program currently has 109 active patients in Geauga County being followed by GPH.

4.01.05

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

During January, Ms. Castner continued to work on various FY25 grant deliverables and significant effort was dedicated to preparations for the Regional Chemical Spill and Local CHEMPACK Tabletop exercises held January 28th at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland in Beachwood. The exercises included partners from GPH, the Kent State Geauga campus, University Hospitals Geauga campus, the Geauga Department of Emergency Services Bainbridge and Chester Township Fire Departments, and Chardon Police. Mr. Litke served as Facilitator for the exercise, Ms. Pinkley assisted as an evaluator. Following the exercise, Ms. Castner met with Regional public health partners involved in planning the exercises for a hotwash debriefing and will be working on compiling all of the data from the exercise evaluators, participant feedback, and Geauga County and Regional hotwashes into After Action Reports for the two exercises.

Ms. Castner has continued working with partners to plan for GPH's annual medical countermeasure (MCM) dispensing drills, which have been postponed. These drills include a staff notification and assembly drill, site activation and setup drills for a primary point of dispensing (POD; Kenston High School), and this year, a throughput drill for at least 200 persons in an hour will be conducted. A walk-through will be conducted to solicit feedback from partner agencies representing individuals with access and functional needs to provide feedback on how to make the POD more accessible.

The non-competitive renewal application for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grants was submitted to the Ohio Department of Health on January 10 and is currently under review. GPH anticipates level funding based on state projections.

The following deliverables were submitted to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for review during January:

- CRI 1.2 - Q2 Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Action Plan
- PHEP CORE 9.1 - PHEP Regional TTX Planning Meeting Attendance

The following deliverables were approved by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for review during January:

- CRI 1.2 - Q2 Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Action Plan
- PHEP CORE 9.1 - PHEP Regional TTX Planning Meeting Attendance
- CRI 5.1 - Social Media Assessment.

Ms. Castner attended the following meetings and trainings during the month of January:

- Weekly Statewide Epidemiology Meetings
- Chemical Surge/CHEMPAC TTX Final Planning Meetings (January 7)
- PHEP Grant Bidders Call (January 7)
- Administrative Preparedness Plan Meeting (January 8)
- Regional Epidemiology and Public Health Meetings (January 10)
- Technical Assistance Call with ODH Program Staff for CRI 3.1 Deliverable (January 13)
- PHEP Office Hours (January 14)
- Chemical Surge/ CHEMPACK TTX Facilitator Training (January 16)
- ODH GMIS Portal Town Hall (January 16)
- BioWatch Risk Communications Meeting (January 21)
- Chemical Surge/ CHEMPACK TTX Evaluator Training (January 24)
- NEO Chemical Surge & CHEMPACK TTXs (January 28)
- Chemical Surge/CHEMPACK TTX Regional Debrief (January 30).

4.01.06

Epidemiology

In January, one long term care facility reported an outbreak of COVID-19. The outbreak involved a total of 9 residents and no staff members. No other outbreaks were reported in January. During this influenza season which started on 9/29/2024 there have been a total of 54 influenza associated hospitalizations. There was one Epicenter anomaly in January which did not require further follow up.

Communicable Diseases Reported by Month Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS)

Communicable Disease Report	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Year to Date (1/1/25 to current)	2024 Year End Totals	2023 Year End Totals
Anaplasmosis	0												0	0	1
Babesiosis	0												0	0	0
Campylobacter	0												0	25	21
C. auris	0												0	2	0
CPO	0												0	8	3
CPO - Colonization Screening	0												0	1	0
Chikungunya	0												0	0	0
Chlamydia	5												5	91	83
COVID-19	138												138	1,445	2,068
Coccidioidomycosis	0												0	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0												0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	1												1	9	1
Cyclosporiasis	0												0	0	0
Dengue	0												0	1	0
E. Coli 0157H7	0												0	7	0
Giardia	1												1	5	3
Gonorrhea	1												1	26	19
Haemophilus Influenza	0												0	2	2
Hepatitis A	0												0	1	0
Hepatitis B (acute)	0												0	0	0
Hepatitis B (chronic)	0												0	5	5
Hepatitis B (perinatal)	0												0	0	0
Hepatitis C (acute)	0												0	0	1
Hepatitis C (chronic)	0												0	13	18
Hepatitis C (perinatal)	0												0	0	0
Hepatitis E	0												0	0	0
Influenza - Hospitalized	37												37	62	27
La Crosse Virus Disease	0												0	0	0
Legionnaires Disease	1												1	6	4
Lepptospirosis	0												0	0	0
Listeriosis	0												0	2	0
Lyme Disease	0												0	12	9
Malaria	0												0	0	0
Meningitis-aseptic/viral	0												0	1	2
Meningitis, Bacterial not Neisseria	0												0	0	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	0												0	0	0
Mpox	0												0	1	0
Mumps	0												0	0	1
Mycobacterium Tuberculosis	0												0	0	0
Pertussis	0												0	4	83
Rocky Mountain spotted fever	0												0	0	0
Salmonellosis	0												0	20	10
Shigellosis	0												0	2	2
Staph Aureus VRSA	0												0	0	0
Streptococcal Group A (GAS)	0												0	12	16
Streptococcal Group B Newbom	0												0	0	0
Streptococcus Pneumoniai(ISP)	0												0	8	3
Syphilis	0												0	3	5
Tuberculosis	0												0	1	0
Varicella	0												0	1	1
Vibriosis	0												0	1	0
West Nile Virus	0												0	0	0
Yersiniosis	0												0	1	1
Totals	184	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	184	1,778	2,389

Ron H. Graham provided the following highlights:

- *Working with University Hospitals to become a Vaccine for Children (VFC) provider through the state, which will give us some support in vaccinations to the Amish population.*
- *Also evaluating the criteria for applying to the Get Vaccinated Ohio grant.*
- *Partnering with University Hospitals on the Community Health Assessment using in-house staff to save on costs. The pilot data project will have up to 30 chronic disease factors at the census tract level, which will allow for a better health assessment. Surveys have been received from community stakeholders and residents. Data analysis will take place over the next couple of months.*

4.02

Environmental Health

4.02.01

Director's Report

On January 28th, multiple staff member participated in a regional drill. The drill was broken into two parts. The first was a chemical spill response and second part was a chemical attack at a public location. The drills were with community partners from Chesterland Fire Department, Chardon Police, and University Hospitals. The drill reinforces incident command system roles and responsibilities, helps us to improve partnerships with local agencies, and practice Geauga Public Health response plans. Staff also learned of the many regional resources available in case of a real-world event.

4.02.02

Food Safety

A Cease-and-Desist letter was hand delivered to Guido's Pizza Haven in Chesterland on 1/10/25 for the production of 2 Nonni dried sausages without approval or inspection.

An office hearing was held with the management of Yangtze Chinese Restaurant on 1/31/25 due to cold holding violations.

4.02.03

Program Inspections

Environmental Health staff conducted the following program inspections in January:

Program	Inspections
Private Water Systems (wells)	16
Camps	0
Swimming Pools/Spas	0
*Food	106
Sewage Systems	20
For Sale of Property	2
HB 110 (Semi-Public) Systems	0
Operation and Maintenance Samples	180
Plumbing	60
Schools	0
Nuisance Complaints	0
Solid Waste	0


*Includes routine inspections, reinspections, mobiles, temporaries, plan reviews, pre-licensing inspections, food-related nuisance complaints, and consultations.

2024 HSTS SAMPLING

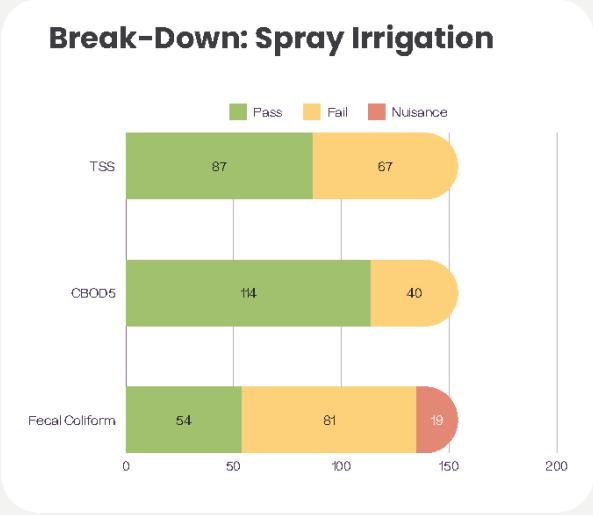
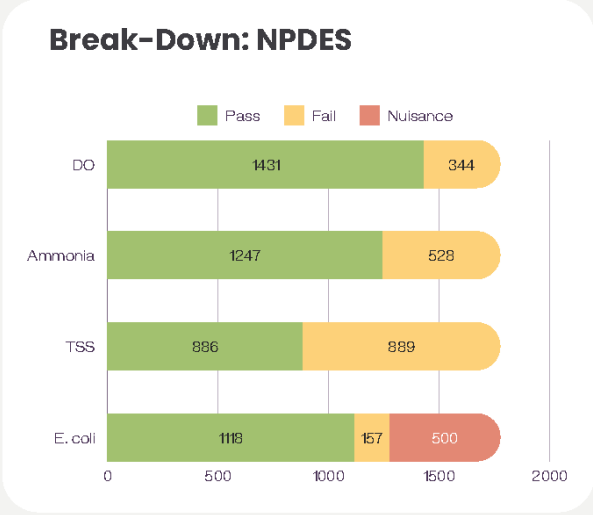
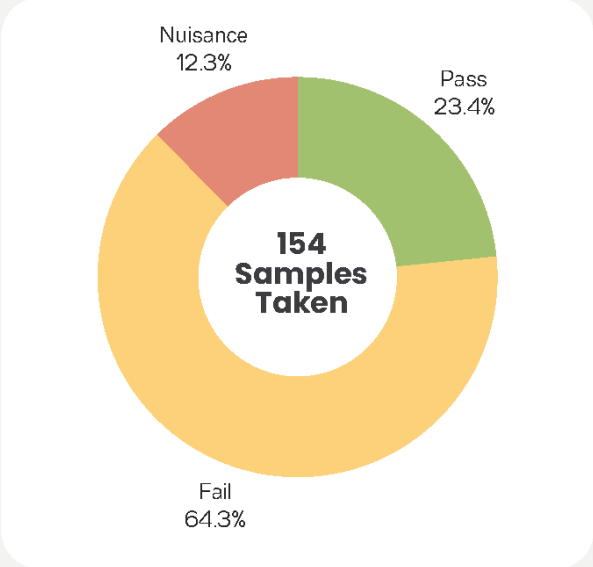
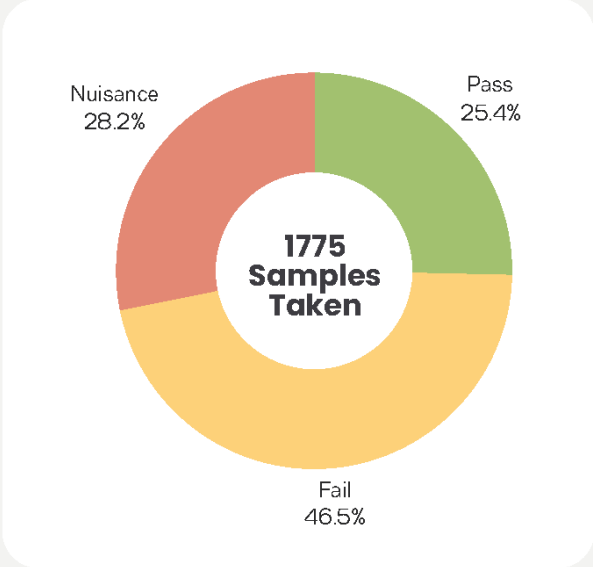
Year-In-Review




NPDES Systems




Spray Irrigation Systems




Unsuccessful Collection Visits: 401 Extra Stops Made




Closed Gate




Overgrowth



Malfunction



No Trespassing



Loose Dogs

Dan Lark provided the following highlights:

- *Reviewed the Operation and Maintenance Program, as the first sampling year of discharging and spray systems has been completed. Bacteria (E.coli) level is the only factor in the sewage code that is considered a public health nuisance. 400 return trips were made to different sites, mostly due to malfunctioning systems. Will continue to compare years to view improvements.*

Discussion:

Ashley Jones asked if the malfunctioning septic system alarms were activated. Dan Lark said that sometimes they were just turned off.

Ashley Jones asked if GPH is tracking how many homeowners have service contracts for their septic systems. Dan Lark said that information is being recorded.

4.03

Administrator's Report

4.03.01

Administrator

1. Working with the Prosecutor's office to continue roll out of the Operation & Maintenance program.
2. The 2025 temporary is currently being reviewed for the Board to consider the 2025 Permanent Budget at the March meeting.
3. Fees are continuously being reviewed for reasonableness. Fee adjustments are based on actual and expected costs to operate programs. Fees are meant to pay for the expense related to services provided and not generate additional "extra" revenue.
4. Working with the Geauga County Auditor's Office pertaining to acquiring 5 vehicles and ensuring they have an amended cross-jurisdictional agreement.

4.03.02

Notes to Financial Statements

Accounts Payable by G/L Distribution Report. This is the day-to-day or current expenses report.

Notes on Chart 1

As of January 31, 2025, the year is 8.33% is complete. This percentage is a point of reference for what percentage of revenue and expense you might expect to see received/expensed at this point in the year.

The following are explanations for revenues and/or expenses that are significantly over budget or under budget from that reference point.

REVENUE:

With January being the first month, revenues are under estimated in the budget. The first half settlement will occur in the later part of February or, at the latest, the first part of March.

EXPENSES:

This is the first month of the year and expenses are under budget in part due to timing of invoice payments. Administrator Litke is working with the Prosecutor's Office and Auditor's Office for amending the cross-jurisdictional agreement with GPH and LCGHD.

Notes on Chart 2

Chart 2 is a comparison of the beginning cash balance of each fund to the current cash balance of each fund.

Notes on Chart 3

The bar graph compares the revenue and expenses by each month for all funds combined.

CHART 1

MONTH OF : JANUARY

	Revised	YTD	% of Budget
Revenue Type	Budget	Revenue	Received
Property and Other Taxes	\$ 575,748.00	\$ -	0.00%
Donations	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
State Reimbursement-Real Estate	\$ 77,028.00	\$ -	0.00%
State Revenues	\$ 461,063.00	\$ -	0.00%
Local Government Tax	\$ -	\$ -	
Permits	\$ 343,000.00	\$ 46,922.00	13.68%
Inspection Fees	\$ 787,000.00	\$ 22,802.00	2.90%
Fees	\$ 223,250.00	\$ 2,891.00	1.29%
Licenses	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
Fines	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	0.00%
Fees Infectious Waste Fees	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!
Fees Solid Waste Fees	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 650.00	16.25%
Foundation Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	
Water Testing Fee	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 695.00	13.90%
Federal Grants	\$ 172,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
Local Match	\$ -	\$ -	
Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -	
Other Revenue	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 2,656.47	68.11%
Other Revenue Other Receipts	\$ 104,000.00	\$ 30,782.12	0.00%
Other Revenue Other Revenue	\$ 67,500.00	\$ 150.00	0.22%
Other Revenue Real Estate Fee Refund	\$ -	\$ -	
Transfers In	\$ 1,269,450.00	\$ -	0.00%
Total Revenue	\$ 4,326,439.00	\$ 107,548.59	2.49%
		Percentage of year Completed	8.33%
Expense Type	Revised	YTD	% of Budget
	Budget	Expense	Used
Salaries	\$ 95,929.00	\$ 6,708.53	6.99%
OPERS	\$ 17,267.00	\$ 888.26	5.14%
Medicare	\$ 1,390.00	\$ 93.53	6.73%
Workers Compensation	\$ 2,398.00	\$ -	0.00%
Hospitalization	\$ 45,137.00	\$ 2,573.18	5.70%
Unemployment	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
Contract Services	\$ 2,775,305.27	\$ 13,159.90	0.47%
Travel	\$ 35,903.90	\$ 760.84	2.12%
Vehicle Expense	\$ -	\$ -	-
Legal Fees	\$ 18,674.81	\$ -	0.00%
Advertising	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 441.00	22.05%
State Remittance	\$ 89,694.00	\$ 3,860.00	4.30%
State Remittance Ohio Permit Fee	\$ 20,382.00	\$ 3,496.00	17.15%
State Remittance Ohio Water Test Fee	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Materials and Supplies	\$ 73,239.91	\$ -	0.00%
Materials and Supplies Supplies	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,100.37	5.50%
Materials and Supplies Vaccine Supply	\$ 11,222.75	\$ -	0.00%
Equipment	\$ 58,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
Equipment Equipment	\$ 7,490.28	\$ -	0.00%
Equipment Equipment Maintenance	\$ 5,899.41	\$ -	0.00%
Other	\$ 582,468.33	\$ 3,013.39	0.52%
Other County RE Tax Expenses	\$ 11,000.00	\$ -	0.00%
Other Health Emergency	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Other Other Expenses	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 2,744.52	3.43%
Other State RE Tax Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!
Other VS Remit to State	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 23,046.00	21.95%
Refunds	\$ 9,974.00	\$ 781.25	7.83%
Repair Services	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Transfers Out	\$ 1,259,450.00	\$ -	0.00%
Total Expense	\$ 5,332,825.66	\$ 62,666.77	1.18%
		Percentage of year Completed	8.33%
Revenue Less Expense	\$ (1,006,386.66)	\$ 44,881.82	
Beginning Cash Balance		\$ 4,312,913.46	
Total Cash on Hand		\$ 4,357,795.28	

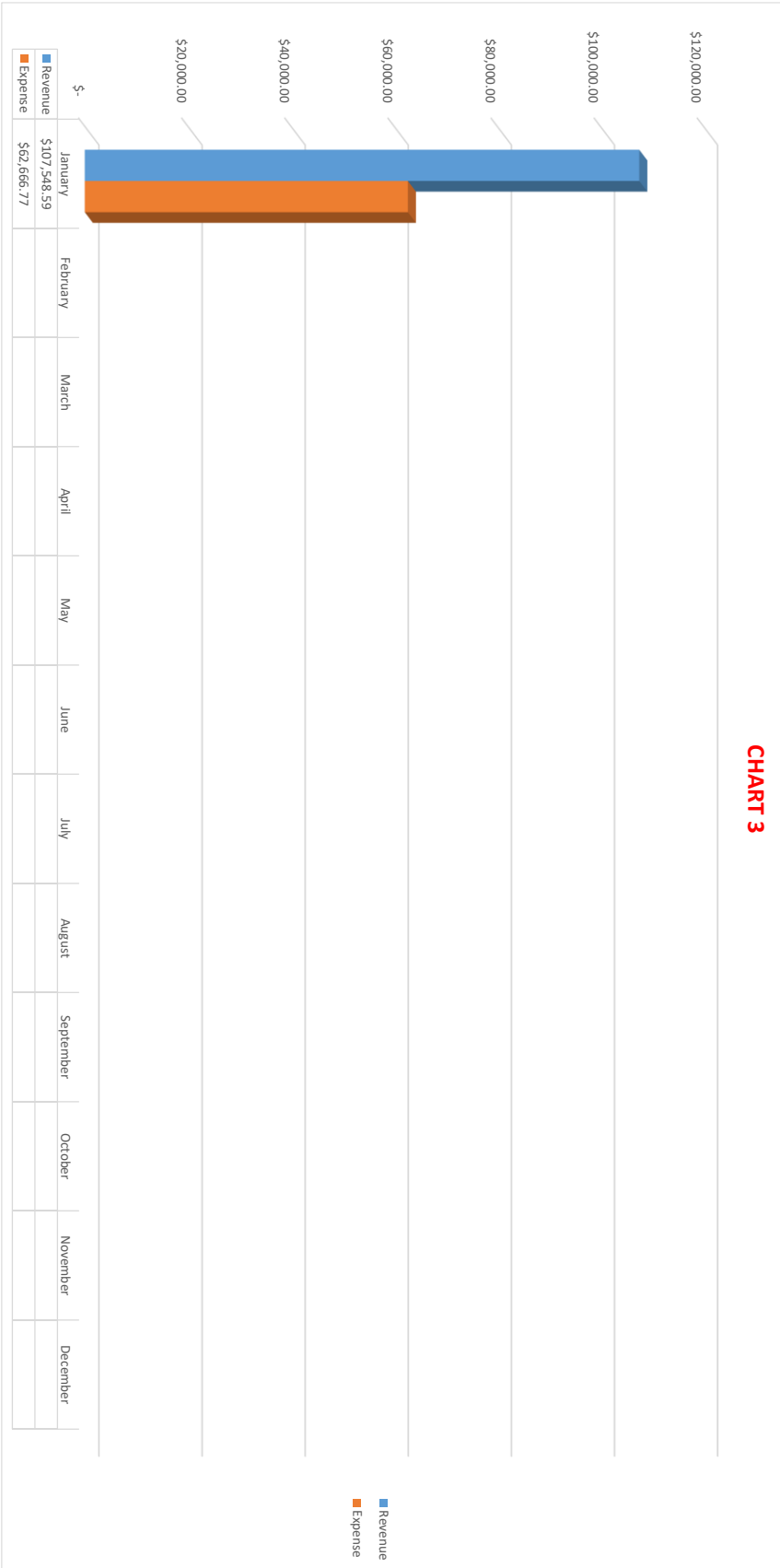
MONTH OF :

JANUARY

CHART 2

Fund Number	Fund name	Beginning Cash Balance	YTD Revenue Per Budget Performance	YTD Expense Per Budget Performance	Ending Cash Balance	Percentage Increase/Decrease
6002	Board of Health	\$ 878,286.92	\$ 59,694.62	\$ 51,126.13	\$ 886,855.41	0.98%
6004	Trailer Park	\$ 18,013.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,013.75	0.00%
6005	Food Service	\$ 544,969.96	\$ 550.00	\$ 334.85	\$ 545,185.11	0.04%
6008	Infectious Waste/ Solid Waste	\$ 124,907.06	\$ 650.00	\$ -	\$ 125,557.06	0.52%
6011	Private Water Systems	\$ 300,917.14	\$ 3,183.00	\$ 3,595.54	\$ 300,504.60	-0.14%
6018	Swimming Pools	\$ 45,798.21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,798.21	0.00%
6021	Public Health Infrastructure	\$ 619,676.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 619,676.45	0.00%
6023	Sewage Treatment Systems	\$ 580,892.99	\$ 30,142.00	\$ 4,164.00	\$ 606,870.99	4.47%
6025	Immunization Action Plan	\$ 27,587.13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,587.13	0.00%
6030	Emergency Response Fund	\$ 26,140.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,140.00	0.00%
6036	Environmental Health Assistance	\$ 64,369.16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,369.16	0.00%
6037	For Sale of Property	\$ 449,465.34	\$ 11,222.50	\$ 3,446.25	\$ 457,241.59	1.73%
6039	Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs	\$ 52,879.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,879.66	0.00%
6040	Injury Prevention	\$ 84,188.45	\$ 2,106.47	\$ -	\$ 86,294.92	2.50%
6041	Workforce Development	\$ 319,629.34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 319,629.34	0.00%
6042	Population Health Fund	\$ 175,191.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,191.90	0.00%
Total		\$ 4,312,913.46	\$ 107,548.59	\$ 62,666.77	\$ 4,357,795.28	

CHART 3



Adam Litke provided the following highlights:

- *No update.*

4.04

Health Commissioner's Report

4.04.01

Midwifery and Scope of Practice

Health Commissioner Ron H. Graham and Administrator Dan Lark met with Pamela D. Kolanz, DEM, and Monica S. Honeycutt, DEM, of Middlefield Midwifery LLC to address possible misconceptions about direct-entry/traditional midwifery in out-of-hospital settings in Geauga County's Amish population. The meeting clarified that this type of midwifery is legal and accepted in Ohio, emphasizes the safety and satisfaction of out-of-institution births, and highlights the extensive training and certifications of midwives. It further confirmed that midwives operate under informed consent, have emergency transport plans, and that parents have the right to choose their birth providers. Additionally, the discussion reiterated that midwives do not have prescriptive authority, collaborate openly with health departments, and are not overburdening hospital systems. The meeting also discussed the legitimacy of Religious Exempt Birth Centers and cautions against misinformation that misrepresents midwifery. It concluded with a review of outcome data and a request urging the Commissioner to help correct public misunderstandings and offered Middlefield Midwifery LLC as a resource for further inquiries.

4.04.02

FY2024 Capacity & Costing Assessment - Available February 3rd - from Susan Tilgner

Local health departments (LHDs) are required to submit an Annual Financial Report (AFR) to Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The data used to complete the AFR is based on the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) and is collected using an assessment tool filled out by LHDs.

4.04.03

Federal Funding Freeze

The federal government has undertaken a series of executive actions concerning federal financial assistance programs. On January 27, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued [Memorandum M-25-13](#), directing federal agencies to "temporarily pause all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance" and to conduct a comprehensive

analysis of their programs to identify those potentially affected by the President's recent executive orders.

This directive led to widespread confusion, as it was interpreted to encompass a broad range of federal assistance programs, including programs like Medicaid and housing aid. In response, the White House clarified that the pause was intended to apply only to funding that violated specific executive orders and would not affect individual benefits. The memo also faced legal challenges, and a federal district court [imposed a temporary stay](#) on its implementation.

Consequently, on January 29, the OMB rescinded Memorandum M-25-13 to address the confusion and comply with the court's injunction; this action [was not a reversal](#) of the federal funding freeze but a step to eliminate confusion, stating that the President's executive orders on federal funding remain in full force and effect. [Reports indicate](#) that federal agencies are pulling down webpages and databases in order to comply with the executive orders.

4.04.04

NACCHO Releases New Interactive Dashboard Offering Nationwide Data About Local Health Department Infrastructure and Activities

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is excited to announce the launch of its new [Profile Study Dashboard](#)! This interactive platform presents results from the [National Profile Study](#), the largest and most comprehensive data source on local health department infrastructure and practices. The dashboard provides the insights and findings of the static report in dynamic format, encouraging exploration and uncovering new insights. It also introduces new features that offer narrative data insights based on the National Profile Report findings, tailored to provide actionable perspectives on key public health topics.

4.04.05

Statehouse Updates

- Governor Mike DeWine appointed Lt. Gov. Jon Husted to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Vice President Vance, with the swearing in taking place on January 21, 2025. The governor pointed to Husted's lengthy public-sector resume, including stints as secretary of state, speaker of the Ohio House, and state senator, as a key factor in his decision. The governor will now need to select a replacement as lieutenant governor.
- Lt. Gov. Husted, before his appointment to the U.S. Senate, was expected to run for governor. Attorney General Dave Yost announced his gubernatorial run this week. Treasurer Robert Sprague and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy have also signaled intentions to run for governor. Meanwhile Amy Acton, the former Ohio Health Department director, announced her run for governor on the Democrat side.

- Senate President Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) announced that former Ohio Republican Party Chair Jane Timken will serve out the remainder of the unexpired term of Sen. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton). Schuring, who was serving the 29th Senate District, died late last year.
- House Democrat committee assignments and ranking members were announced. Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney (D-Cleveland) will continue as ranking member of the House Finance Committee, which works heavily on the state operating budget. **The House Democrat committee assignments can be viewed [here](#).**
- The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Cannabis Control has launched the Cannabis Service Center to more efficiently process, manage and respond to inquiries from licensees, the public, and other stakeholders. A case will be created whenever someone contacts the division by calling 1-833-464-6627, emailing DCCLicensing@com.ohio.gov for licensing-related matters, or DCCCompliance@com.ohio.gov for compliance-related matters.
- The Ohio Department of Development announced \$22.4 million in grants to improve housing access and provide homeownership and rental assistance for low- and moderate-income families under the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) program. **The grant recipients can be viewed [here](#).**
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources announced projects receiving funding through the latest round of the NatureWorks grant program, with 86 projects receiving funding for such purposes as ball fields, swimming pools, splashpads, pickleball courts, park shelters and more.

4.04.06

Senate HELP Committee Roundtable on Vaccines and Public Health

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Ranking Member Bernie Sanders (I-VT) [hosted](#) a panel discussion and Q&A session with Democratic committee members on vaccines and public health. Senator Sanders indicated that the panel was meant to inform the public about the benefits and importance of vaccines. Panelists included:

- Dr. Paul Offit, Director of the Vaccine Education Center and Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Vice Dean, Public Health Practice and Community Engagement at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- Catherine Kennedy, President, California Nurses Association; Vice President, National Nurses United; Staff Nurse, Kaiser Permanente Roseville, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Dr. Gregg Gonsalves, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health

The experts warned that without widespread vaccination, diseases will reemerge, which poses the risk of endangering the public’s health and burdening healthcare systems. Panelists and Senators discussed specifically how vaccines are approved for public use, emphasizing that they

undergo rigorous research, trials, and safety reviews by independent entities ensuring their safety and efficacy. They discussed widespread misinformation and distrust in science and government, which has already led to higher rates of unvaccinated children and the resurgence of diseases like measles and pertussis. Panelists emphasized the importance of public education, leadership, and bipartisan support to restore and maintain vaccine confidence, and especially to protect children from dangerous, preventable diseases and death. Panelists also emphasized the need for collaboration with local health departments and pointed out the need for consistent funding.

4.04.07

U.S. Life Expectancy Disparities Nearly Double Since 2000

Americans' health has long been unequal, but a new study shows that the disparity between the life expectancies of different populations has nearly doubled since 2000 (Source: "[The Growing Inequality in Life Expectancy Among Americans](#)," Kaiser Health News, Jan. 22).

The life expectancy among Native Americans in the western United States has dropped below 64 years, close to life expectancies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti. For many Asian Americans, it's around 84 years — on par with life expectancies in Japan and Switzerland.

Heart disease, car fatalities, diabetes, COVID-19, and other common causes of death are directly to blame. But research shows that the [conditions of people's lives](#), their behaviors, and their environments heavily influence why some populations are at higher risk than others.

Last year Health Policy Institute-Ohio (HPIO) released a publication titled [What's Driving the Trend on Early Death](#) that uses data from the [2024 Health Value Dashboard](#) to explore the experiences and environments that lead to deaths among working-age Ohioans (ages 15-64) and provides a set of policies to drive improvement.

4.04.08

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 1/16/2025 Synopsis

- Data collected from 2 internet panel surveys of 2,603 U.S. health care providers during September 9 - November 3, 2022, and March 17 - May 15, 2023, revealed that 45.4% did not need mental health care, while 20.3% sought care. Of the 25.6% that reported mental distress severe enough to meet diagnostic criteria for psychopathology, 38% sought care, while 20.1% said they did not need care despite their severe symptoms. Those more likely to seek mental health care were females, and those who have been in practice for longer. Reported barriers to seeking care were getting time off work, costs, and confidentiality concerns.
- In October 2024, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved the 2025 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Child and Adolescent Ages 18 Years or Younger, United States. Updates include changes to the cover page, tables, notes, and appendix. Recommendations occurring between annual schedule updates will be summarized in the addendum section. Changes include updated recommendations regarding COVID-19,

flu, meningococcal, DTaP, polio, MMR, varicella, RSV, and other vaccines. This report details specific changes made, and the full immunization schedule can be found on the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/index.html>

- In October 2024, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved the 2025 Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Ages 19 Years or Older, United States. Updates include changes to the cover page, tables, notes, and appendix. Recommendations occurring between annual schedule updates will be summarized in the addendum section. Changes include updated recommendations regarding COVID-19, flu, meningococcal, pneumococcal, and RSV vaccines, as well as additions and clarifications regarding polio, HepB, Mpox, and Tdap vaccines. This report details specific changes made, and the full immunization schedule can be found on the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/index.html>
-

Ron H. Graham provided the following highlights:

- *Information is being disseminated from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*
- *Keeping an eye on the state budget regarding health districts.*

5.0

Old Business

No Old Business.

6.0

New Business

6.01

6.01.01

Financial Reports, Resolution 25-02-06-01-01

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to approve the Financial Reports for payment of bills, as listed in the recapitulation sheets attached to these minutes; motion carried.

6.01.02

Permission to Approve Appropriations for Increase/Decrease

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Melissa DeBoth seconded a motion to approve supplemental Appropriations for Increase/Decrease as presented; motion carried.

6.01.03

Resolution 2025-7: Then and Now Purchase Order to Lake County General Health District, Not to Exceed \$10,735.00

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-7 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Lake County General Health District, total not to exceed \$10,735.00; motion carried.

6.01.04

Resolution 2025-8: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Department of Water Resources, Not to Exceed \$3,760.00

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-8 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Department of Water Resources, total not to exceed \$3,760.00; motion carried.

6.01.05

Resolution 2025-9: Then and Now Purchase Order to The Baldwin Group, Not to Exceed \$1,214.00

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-9 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to The Baldwin Group, total not to exceed \$1,214.00; motion carried.

6.01.06

Resolution 2025-10: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County ADP Board, Not to Exceed \$15,353.65

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-10 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Geauga County ADP Board, total not to exceed \$15,353.65; motion carried.

6.01.07

Resolution 2025-11: Then and Now Purchase Order to Green Acres Excavating and Sewer, Not to Exceed \$29,000.00

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-11 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Green Acres Excavating and Sewer, total not to exceed \$29,000.00; motion carried.

6.01.08

Resolution 2025-12: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Commissioners, Not to Exceed \$4,347.50

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-12 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Commissioners, total not to exceed \$4,347.50; motion carried.

6.01.09

Resolution 2025-13: Then and Now Purchase Order to Lake County General Health District, Not to Exceed \$16,725.00

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-13 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Lake County General Health District, total not to exceed \$16,725.00; motion carried.

6.01.10

Resolution 2025-14: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County ADP, Not to Exceed \$65.00

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-14 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Geauga County ADP, total not to exceed \$65.00; motion carried.

6.01.11

Resolution 2025-15: Then and Now Purchase Order to Ohio Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, Not to Exceed \$167.50

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-15 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Ohio Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, total not to exceed \$167.50; motion carried.

6.01.12

Resolution 2025-16: Then and Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Commissioners, Not to Exceed \$4,559.89

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-16 to authorize the payment of a Then & Now Purchase Order to Geauga County Commissioners, total not to exceed \$4,559.89; motion carried.

6.02

Permission to Amend the Contract with HS GovTech, \$64,706.25

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to amend the contract with HS GovTech for the Environmental Health software system to include additional functions and users, total cost of \$64,706.25. The amended quoted total consists of \$37,293.75 to configure, convert data and implement HS Cloud Suite and \$27,412.50 for the annual cost of warranty, hosting, maintenance and technical support. This is an increase of \$2,550.00 from the approval given at the Geauga Board of Health Meeting held on November 20, 2024; motion carried.

Dan Lark said this program will allow for license fees to be paid online. Restaurant ratings will also be available for public viewing.

6.03

Permission to Approve the 2026 Geauga Public Health Budget

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Ashley Jones seconded a motion to approve the 2026 Geauga Public Health Budget. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Dr. Hendrickson, yes; Dr. Rood, yes; Ms. Jones, yes; Ms. DeBoth, yes.

Ron Graham said once the budget is approved it will go before the Health District Advisory Council (HDAC) at their meeting on March 12, 2025. He provided the following highlights:

- The Operation & Maintenance Program will be in full swing, but revenue for the program is underestimated in the budget.
- House Bill 110 payments have been completed. This reduced the carryover by nearly \$1,000,000. There is no additional revenue for this program, but expenses have increased due to the staff contract.
- The budget is extremely fluid and will be revised in December 2025 when revenues and expenses are better estimated for 2026.
- The 40% reduction in funding from the Workforce grant is reflected the budget.
- We continue to look at ways to reduce costs to the public. Shared services for directors is one of those cost savings.

Discussion:

Dr. Mark Rood asked if they anticipated hiring more staff. Dan Lark said one, possibly two people would need to be hired in 2026, but believes it is reflected in the budget.

Ashley Jones appreciated the fact that the fees mostly match the expenses for each program as opposed to being much higher than what is needed to balance. Dan Lark said programs are reviewed every year to make sure we don't overcharge, yet are still covering expenses. The revenue for the For Sale of Property fund would reflect a full year of revenue for the Operation and Maintenance Program.

Dr. Mark Rood asked what federal funding is received by the health department. Ron Graham said very little federal funding goes directly to the health departments in Ohio. It first goes to the state and is then directed to us, including the WIC grant (which is administered by Lake

County General Health District) and the Emergency Preparedness grant. Dan Lark added the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund monies through the Clean Water Act are distributed through the Environmental Protection Agency, but they go right to the residents, as opposed to supporting the health department.

6.04

Resolution Authorizing Dan Lark, Administrator, to Apply for, Accept, and Enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Agreement on Behalf of Geauga Public Health of Geauga County for the Repair and Replacement of Home Sewage Treatment Systems

Dr. Mark Rood moved and Dr. Mark Hendrickson seconded a motion to approve the resolution authorizing Dan Lark, Administrator, to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) agreement on behalf of Geauga Public Health for the repair or replacement of home septic systems; motion carried.

Dan Lark said this program helps low-income families repair or replace their septic systems. We anticipate an increase in funding to \$75,000 for this year.



GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH

12611 Ravenwood Dr., Suite 301, Chardon, OH 44024-1071

Resolution No. 2025-17

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DAN LARK, ADMINISTRATOR, TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF GEAUGA PUBLIC HEALTH OF GEAUGA COUNTY FOR THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF HOME SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS:

Whereas, Geauga Public Health of Geauga County seeks to repair and/or replace failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, Geauga Public Health of Geauga County intends to apply to the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund requires the government authority to pass legislation for application of a loan and the execution of a WPCLF assistance agreement; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of Health of Geauga Public Health of Geauga County, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Dan Lark or his designee be and is hereby authorized to apply for a WPCLF assistance agreement, sign all documents for and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems on behalf of Geauga Public Health of Geauga County, Ohio.

SECTION 2. That this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

On February 26, 2025, at the regular monthly Board of Health meeting, _____ moved and _____ seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2025-17. The motion was approved with a roll call vote.

Dr. Mark Hendrickson President	_____ Signature	_____ Vote
Dr. Mark Rood Pro-Tem.	_____ Signature	_____ Vote
Melissa DeBoth	_____ Signature	_____ Vote
Ashley Jones, Pharm D	_____ Signature	_____ Vote
Vacant	_____ Signature	_____ Vote

Discussion:

Ashley Jones asked if there is local funding that can also be utilized. Dan Lark said we are currently in discussion with the Prosecutor's Office regarding said funding.

7.0

Citizens' Remarks

Dr. Mark Hendrickson 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.

A member of the public verified the budget presented is for 2026. She asked for clarification regarding Legal Services and the CJA. Ron Graham said the \$2,200,000 is for both legal fees and the Cross-Jurisdictional Agreement.

A member of the public asked for procedures for the two open board member positions. Dan Lark said the process, including interviewing and voting, is completed by the Health District Advisory Council. Quarterly HDAC meetings are held to answer questions and discuss concerns.

A member of the public asked about the measles outbreak in the country. Ron Graham said there are no concerns here at the moment, but we are prepared to respond quickly if needed.

8.0

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

9.0

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Secretary

President