

Health Board Minutes

March 19th, 2024

Members present in person at the Health Department and on Zoom

Members Present:

Linda Bauer
Michael Day
Thomi Elmore
Thomas Martin
Cynthia Rose
Catherine Rountree
James Zimmerly

Staff Present:

Taylor Alton
Jennifer Heller
Judy Hess
John Kennard
Ernie Reed
Seleah Settle
Dr. Norman Oestrike, Health Officer

Guest Speakers Present:

Clint Studabaker

Board chair Thomi Elmore called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

Clint Studabaker

- a. Brown County Regional Sewer District Update
 - I. Clint Studabaker announced that progress is being made on the Bean Blossom Sewer Project and he will update the board as more development takes place. The other areas that have been proposed, such as Lake Lemon, will be assessed later.
 - II. The Lake Monroe Watershed Management Group received a grant to look at soil and water quality. Clint wants to use some of these funds to research the amount of E. coli in the water.
 - III. On September 14th, Clint will be hosting a Septic Summit 2.0 at the 4-H fairgrounds. It will be very similar to the previous one that took place in 2019. There will be food, an equipment show, educational resources, and a panel of septic specialists to answer questions.

Approval of Minutes from January 23rd, 2024

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the minutes from the January 23rd meeting passed unanimously.

Health Officer- Dr. Norman Oestrike

- a. Personnel Changes
 - I. Dr. Oestrike stated that Judy Hess will retire from the Health Department after 10 years of employment. Her last day will be Friday, April 5th. Taylor Alton will take the role of Office Administrator. Ads have been sent out for the Office Assistant position and interviews have been scheduled.
- b. **Legislative Update**
 - I. Dr. Oestrike said that recently the department has received several requests in the Cordry Sweetwater area to approve large remodels or new constructions using their existing inadequately sized septic systems.
 - II. The legislature passed a law saying that if the homeowner is unsatisfied with the health department's denial or septic system proposal, they may hire a licensed engineer that will design a system that meets state code, and the department will approve it. This lessens the burden on the environmentalists and will reduce the appeal requests to the Health Board. This also gives the homeowner more options if they receive an initial denial from the department.
 - III. Dr. Oestrike clarified that pump and haul is still a viable option to help families with failed septic systems that may not be able to afford to hire an engineer and go through that process.

Front Office- Judy Hess and Taylor Alton – Report Mailed

a. Annual Report

- I. Currently the death reports are separated by in-county and out-of-county deaths. Cathy Rountree inquired if the two reports could be merged in the annual report. Taylor Alton said she was unsure if she was allowed to combine them, as the state specifically divides them, but would ask the state and see if they can be merged for the next annual report. Taylor also explained that all counties can only issue births and death certificates if the person was born or died within their county.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the 2023 annual report passed unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the front office report passed unanimously.

Emergency Preparedness-Corey Frost– Report Mailed

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the emergency preparedness report passed unanimously.

Nursing- Seleah Settle – Report Mailed

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the nursing report passed unanimously.

Environmental Health –Jennifer Heller – Report Mailed

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the environmental health report passed unanimously.

Environmental Health-John Kennard & Ernie Reed-Report Mailed

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the environmental health report passed unanimously.

New Business

a. Treatment Guide

- I. Cathy presented the updated Treatment Guide that has been posted to the Health Department’s website and will be distributed to the public. Any updates to the guide will be posted on the website.
- II. There is also a group that is analyzing the number of suicides and overdoses happening within the county and examining contributing factors to see if there is a gap in community support that can be filled.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to adjourn meeting at approximately 6 pm passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Norman Oestrike, MD
Health Officer

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