

Health Board Minutes

May 21st, 2024

Members present in person at the Health Department and on Zoom

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Taylor Alton
Corey Frost
Ernie Reed
Seleah Settle
Dr. Norman Oestrike, Health Officer

Guest Speakers Present:

Blake Wolpert-Commissioner

Board Vice President Dr. Michael Day called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

Approval of Minutes from March 19th, 2024

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the minutes from the March 19th meeting passed unanimously.

Health Officer- Dr. Norman Oestrike

- a. Temporary Environmental Health Specialist Position
 - I. Dr. Oestrike announced that a situation has arisen causing the department's environmentalists to be out of the office at the same time during septic season. Dr. Oestrike wrote a letter to the County Council requesting to use their attrition fund to hire an additional temporary environmentalist. The County Council met and agreed to funding a temporary full-time position without benefits. During a work session the following day, the County Council decided the department could hire someone temporarily, but the attrition fund would not be used, and the department would need to fund the position independently. They suggested the department use the funds from the old health clinic. Dr. Oestrike said those funds cannot be used for that purpose, as it is strictly to be used for a health clinic. Health First Indiana funding has already been allocated and is being spent for 2024. Dr. Oestrike discussed that the department may need to cross train employees to do different tasks, but then their original duties may get neglected. He said he would like to see a permanent position added but since that process takes a while, in the meantime a temporary position would be ideal for the emergent situation approaching.
 - II. Commissioner Blake Wolpert said he believed the county should allow the position to be paid for by the attrition fund and to pursue the issue further with County Council and to contact Melissa Stinson. He suggested resubmitting the request to use the attrition fund to the County Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve using the attrition fund to hire a temporary full-time environmentalist passed unanimously.

Front Office- Taylor Alton and Addison Volbrecht – Report Mailed

- a. HFI & 1159 Budget
 - I. Taylor presented the budget for the County Health Fund 1159 and the Health First Indiana fund 1160. Taylor stated that she has had some difficulty getting consistent numbers from the Auditor's office, therefore, there may be changes to the 1159 budget and a separate meeting may need to be held closer to the final submittal for approval of the changes. To her knowledge the budget presented is correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the County Health Fund 1159 budget passed unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Motion to approve the Health First Indiana 1160 budget 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

- a. Tick Education
 - I. Seleah Settle said the department has tick cards and brochures to give to the public, and she frequently speaks to the state’s epidemiologist.
 - II. Dr. Day suggested getting the tick information out to the public in early spring. Seleah agreed.
 - III. Dr. Oestrike mentioned that the only measures that can be taken are preventative, such as spraying for ticks prior to going outside, and checking for them once indoors. Alpha Gal is an allergy to the saliva in the tick, not a disease. It causes the person to be allergic to all mammalian meat.

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

- a. Unfit Housing
 - I. Cathy Rountree asked how the department handles unfit housing complaints. Ernie stated that if it is a rental situation, they will set a meeting with the tenant to inspect the complaint and then contact the landlord accordingly. Housing complaints are always inspected with 2 environmentalists. If it is a neighboring property, most of the time there is a no trespassing sign or purple paint, meaning the department cannot enter the property. In those cases, the environmentalists will make attempts to contact the homeowner through mail to get the issue resolved. If there are no signs, the environmentalist may knock on the door to reach the homeowner and discuss the complaint.
- b. Elkinsville Cemetery Road
 - I. Jim Zimmerly inquired if there has been any progress regarding the illegal structure on Elkinsville Cemetery Road. Ernie stated that nothing has been resolved.
- c. Barriger Case
 - I. Dr. Oestrike shared that Mr. Barriger has passed. The attorney is looking into enforcement of cleansing the property.

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

Old Business

- a. Septic Education
 - I. Dr. Day stated that it would be good to get more septic education out there by posting reminders in the newspaper to get tanks pumped and make brochures to give to realtors. It was agreed amongst everyone that that was a good idea.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Norman Oestrike, MD

Health Officer

TA