

Porter County Board of Health Meeting

Tuesday October 01, 2024
155 Indiana Avenue, Commissioner's Chambers
Valparaiso, Indiana
Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon, Dr. Kimberly Brunt, Dr. Chris Osan, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Robyn Lane, Terry Wuletich

Absent: Dr. Maria Stamp,

The meeting starts with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Terry Wuletich made a motion to approve, Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. Passed 6-0. Dr. Osan was not present during this vote, but he arrived shortly after.

**** Announcements ****

The next Porter County Board of Health meeting is scheduled for December 03, 2024 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Porter County Administration Building.

**** New Business ****

Alison Cox and Amy Beier from Porter County Juvenile Services provided an overview of the Juvenile Services Department and the services they provide, along with the challenges they face. Discussion took place about page five (5) of the submitted proposal, detailing specific needs, and emphasizing the importance of the funding for the JDC. The organization requested \$75,000 to help add staff, new equipment and training for the staff.

Porter County Councilmembers Andy Vasquez and Sylvia Graham spoke as members of the public. They both gave praise to the idea of the proposed funding request.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the funding request for the program. Kathy Lemmon made the motion to approve the funding and Robyn Lane seconded. It passed unanimously.

Porter County Health Department Environmental Health Director, Dan Boyd, presented information about the current on-site septic system appeal, and mentioned the need for a replacement septic system on a property in Porter County. Dan explained the challenges with the property, including steep slopes, a nearby pond and a shallow till. He proposed using an Elgin sand line system. Dan described the Elgin sand line system as a new technology in Indiana. The system is proposed to be installed within 50 feet of a pond, which requires an appeal to the local health board. Regarding the current septic system, Dan mentioned that the septic system on the property needs to be replaced because it is old and does not meet the current code.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the appeal. Dr. Fleming made the motion to approve the septic appeal and Dr. Osan seconded. It passed unanimously.

Dr. Boxum introduced the legal service agreement with Blachly, Tabor, Bozik, & Hartman, LLC. Attorney Dave Hollenbeck expresses gratitude for the opportunity to work on public health issues. The agreement is briefly discussed.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the renewal. Terry Wuletich made the motion to approve the agreement and Dr. Fleming seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**** Old Business ****

Dan Boyd discussed the timeline for the Porter County On-Site Sewer System Ordinance's readings and approval process. The ordinance aims to regulate installer registration and ensure quality work.

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the septic ordinance. Dr. Fleming made a motion to approve and Dr. Osan seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

With the approval, the new ordinance will be presented before the Porter County Commissioners during their next meeting on October 8th, 2024. (The ordinance hearing was rescheduled for the next Commissioners meeting on October 29, 2024.)

****Reports of Board Attorney****

Attorney Hollenbeck and Dr. Boxum discussed the process of selecting a new health officer, highlighting the qualifications and community involvement of the chosen candidate, Dr. Rodney Guimont of Chesterton.

Attorney Hollenbeck called for a motion to approve the referral of the new health officer to the board of commissioners. Dr. Boxum submitted the motion to approve the referral and Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

****Claims & Receipts****

Dr. Boxum called for a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Dr. Fleming made the motion to approve and Kathy Lemmon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

****Reports of Committees, Staff, Health Officer****

Porter County Health Department Administrator, Carrie Gschwind, mentioned the final reading of the budget, which was a lengthy process but successful. A summary was shown of the rides provided by Porter County Aging and Community Services in 2023 and 2024, noting a significant increase in the number of rides provided.

****Public Comment****

Porter County Councilmembers Andy Vasquez inquired about the requirements for septic system hauling contracts, and Dan Boyd clarified that contracts are only needed for new systems with permanent holding tanks.

Meeting Adjourned