

Washington County Board of Health  
Board Meeting  
January 13, 2009  
Minutes

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Washington County Board of Health was called to order by President Wilbert Antill. Board members present: Wilbert Antill, Richard Daniell, Dr. Todd Myers, Bob Powell, and Alternate, Steve Johnson. Staff in attendance: Dr. Kathleen Meckstroth, Ken Robinson, Ray Touvell, and Valerie Betkoski.

A time was set aside for a public hearing on the proposed resolution on the Residential Plumbing Code. 58 members of the public attended this portion of the meeting to comment on the proposed resolution. The following comments were received:

Asa Boring-Belpre Township: the county has too many layoffs and with the slow economy we cannot afford additional tax when it is not needed. If the majority of the people present votes for or against it, it is up to the Board to follow the recommendations of the majority.

Richard Earley- Grandview Township: The Board should try to save people money and this should be put on the ballot

Robert LeMaster- Warren Township: with all the people being laid off, many are going without food and medication and cannot afford to have plumbing done according to code.

Gary Merrow-Belpre Township: On 12/29 the commissioners rescinded the building code. We already have septic codes. The Board should concentrate on health concerns not building codes

Paul Beaver- homeowner: It is not needed. Let people decide. No problem with illness in Washington County so do not need

Bill Kidd-He required a plumbing permit for his small business. Does not need one for his home too.

Terry Mayle- Decatur Township: do not need in county

Danny Gage-Wesley Township: do not need in county

John Karas- Muskingum Township; this township has a zoning code. Building code was not well thought out rushed through. There was not enough time to allow for a public hearing.

John Laugh- Contractor: 27 years in the business. Do not need regulations and do not need more bureaucracy. Plumbing inspections are a joke.

Steve Weber- County Commissioner: Agreed with rescission in that the residential building code was not well thought out. Needed to study the issue more before being considered.

Tom Insley-plumbing contractor: the code would be beneficial for contractors

President Antill stated that he was not in favor of the resolution but felt that there needed to be a public hearing on the matter such as was currently held. Dr. Meckstroth stated that the reason this was brought before the Board was because of the original passage of the residential building code by the county commissioners. With that code initially in place, it made sense to include a plumbing code. Under current statute, only the Board of Health has the authority to require a plumbing code.

Mr. Antill closed the public hearing.

Mr. Daniell moved to declare an emergency and proceed with the second and third readings of the resolution. Second Dr. Myers. Motion carried.

The resolution was read for the second and third time.

Mr. Powell moved to remove the resolution from further consideration by the Board. Second Dr. Myers. A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Daniell Aye  
Mr. Powell Aye  
Mr. Antill Aye  
Dr. Myers Aye.

The motion was passed unanimously.

A brief recess was called and the public left the meeting room.

Dr. Myers moved the approval of the minutes of the December Board meeting. Second Mr. Powell. Motion carried.

A written fiscal report was distributed in the absence of Jeannie Farnsworth. Mr. Powell moved the approval of the bills for payment. Second Dr. Myers. Motion carried.

Budget actions were presented for approval. There were a number of actions regarding reductions in appropriations. These actions were necessary so that the books could be balanced according to the auditor requirements at the end of the year. Mr. Daniell moved approval. Second Mr. Powell. Motion carried.

Dr. Meckstroth presented the health commissioner's report. In addition to the written report she presented a statement on the number of patients seen in the dental clinic and a breakdown of the payments received either through a sliding fee scale or recovered from Medicaid billings.

Ms. Betkoski presented the nursing report. 6,486 immunizations were given in 2008. In order to provide additional funding for services, she requested that the \$10 administrative fee for immunizations that was tabled last July be put into effect. The Board concurred and requested that this new fee start on 1/14/09.

Barbara Guckert is still planning for retirement at the end of January. She is in the process of working with the new employee, Bethany Gaul, who is taking her place so that there will be a smooth transition. The Board requested that an exit interview be held with Ms. Guckert.

The CVH program continues to provide services to Washington County. Court Witschey was recently part of a team that attended a healthy communities conference in Washington DC. The cost of this trip was paid totally by outside funds.

The salmonella outbreak thought to be linked to peanut butter is being investigated statewide. No cases have been isolated in Washington County as of this date.

Mr. Robinson presented the environmental health report. Although it is slow with septic permits at the current time, staff is catching up on other inspections and paperwork.

The following out of county meetings were presented for approval:  
Plumbing Inspectors Annual Conference, Feb 23-25, Dublin, OH (Touvell)  
Registration \$200, per Diem, time and travel

2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit, Feb 16-21, San Diego (King)  
Mileage to and from airport, parking and meals not covered  
All other expenses funded by NACCHO

Dr. Myers moved approval. Second Mr. Powell. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

The Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathleen Meckstroth, Secretary

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Wilbert Antill, President