

Washington County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2008

The Washington County Board of Health meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President Wilbert Antill. Board members in attendance: Wilbert Antill, Richard Daniell, Steve Johnson, Jim Rodgers (joined the meeting at 7 p.m.). Staff present: Dr. Kathleen Meckstroth, Valerie Betkoski, Joshua Lane.

Mr. Antill welcomed Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director, Ohio Department of Health, to the meeting. Dr. Jackson spoke of collaboration as the key to funding and the need to coordinate services with local partners. He talked of the trend seen toward combining health departments as a result of coordination of services and the need to address economic issues. He also talked of the need to address disparities in health care and that these disparities exist in Appalachia in diabetes, EMS, and diseases specific to the region. This data will be necessary to incorporate into funding requests, including grants, in the future.

Dr. Jackson also responded to questions and comments from the Board of Health related to sewage laws, school inspections and other unfunded mandates.

The minutes of the July 8 meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Daniell moved approval with a correction to reflect that deed restrictions related to septic treatment systems would be incorporated in the subdivision plans for Chautauqua Estates. Second Mr. Rodgers. Motion carried.

In the absence of Ms. Farnsworth, Dr. Meckstroth presented the financial reports. The financial reports were reviewed and filed for audit. Reconciliation reports were also available for review by the Board.

The following budget action items were approved:

- Additional appropriations in PHI 2008 grant fund, MRC grant fund
- Transfers in line items in Phi 2008
- Amended Certificates in PHI 2008 grant to match outstanding grant award
- Amended Certificate in MRC fund to reflect contract with Noble County Health Department
- Additional appropriations in Mobile Home Parks fund to reflect increased remittance to state

Mr. Daniell moved approval. Second Mr. Rodgers. Motion carried.

A list of bills to be paid was submitted for approval. Mr. Rodgers moved approval. Second Mr. Johnson. Motion carried.

Dr. Meckstroth also reported that former plumbing inspector, Jeff Davis, has filed for unemployment as a result of lay-off from his current position. Because he still

falls within the established timeframe, the Health Department will be responsible for a percentage of his claim, up to \$3,200.

In addition to the written Health Commissioner's report, Dr. Meckstroth informed the Board of a recent dog bite investigation and the cooperation between the health department and the dog warden on the disposition of the animals involved. She also answered questions from the Board on the sewage complaint registered by Mr. and Mrs. Williams, School House Road. Josh Lane, sanitarian, will be visiting the property later in the month to determine if the system is working with the corrections made.

Ms. Betkoski presented the public health nursing report. Healthy Happenings was a success and will be on the agenda again for next year. With school starting the nursing program anticipates a rise in the number of childhood immunizations.

Cardiovascular Health programs are moving forward. Court Witschey is working on two grants at this time; one is the continuation grant, and the second is a partnership grant with the skaters' alliance that is working toward funding a skate park. The Biggest Loser program continues to be a popular activity as well.

Mr. Lane, representing environmental health, presented the report in place of Ken Robinson. The numbers of inspections and activities remains steady. Mr. Lane has been following up on many of the nuisance complaints and noted that most of the sewage complaints would be addressed through an inspection program such as the one proposed with the draft law. Food inspections are on target and will be completed in a timely manner.

Unfinished Business:

The employee dental policy was tabled until the September meeting as a revised policy was unavailable for review.

Mr. Antill appointed Mr. Daniell and Mr. Powell to occasionally check with employees and determine the status of morale within the department. This is an informal employee discussion and not a formal committee of the Board of Health.

New Business:

A back-up plumbing inspector is needed for the time when Ray Touvell is off due to illness or vacation. Ray and Dr. Meckstroth have interviewed Bryson Weekley, a certified inspector from Byesville, as a candidate for this position. He would be under contract and strictly used on an as needed basis. No benefits would be associated with his employ. Mr. Rodgers moved approval. Second Mr. Johnson. Motion carried.

The Washington County building department has begun preparations to adopt a residential building code for Washington County. As part of that code, plumbing

inspections would be required on new construction and any renovations requiring a residential building permit. Dr. Meckstroth requested that the Board consider this program as an addition to our commercial plumbing program. The Board is reluctant to pursue any new addition to the plumbing program but needs further information as the county pursues the residential building code adoption. No action was taken by the Board.

Dr. Meckstroth asked the Board's approval for anticipated vacation time to be taken September 22 through October 3. She will be available by phone if the need arises and supervisors will be in charge of their departments. The Board approved this time off.

There being no further business, the Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Meckstroth, Secretary

Wilbert Antill, President