

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health

Minutes

1/10/2024

Health Officer Danielle Persky called meeting to order at 3 pm at the Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047. Roll call taken. Board members present were: Randall Peat, Jeremiah Jones, Don Hanson, Tina Leary, Mary Howie, Robert Linderman and Vicki Vaughn.

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, Nancy Desai and Tina Cox.

Others: Roger Boyer, Dwight (Skip) Dyes

Danielle asked for nominations for Board of Health Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Peat nominating Jones for Chairperson. Motion by Peat, 2nd by Jones nominating Leary for Vice-Chairperson. No further nominations. All voting yes, motion carried. Meeting turned over to Chairperson Jeremiah Jones.

Danielle requested the agenda to be changed to allow her to go into a closed session after public comment to discuss a personnel issue.

December meeting minutes were reviewed. Motioned by Jones, 2nd by Hanson to approve the December meeting minutes as written. All voting yes, motion carried.

Finance Director's Report: Each board member received a copy of the expenditures for December 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Nancy apologized for not having the financial report completed. She stated the new format of the expenditures report is now listed by largest to smallest dollar amount as was requested. Items highlighted were: Dental Lab Services explained, Strategic Planning Implementation Guidance, Utilities, garbage pickup and Gas for Dowagiac facility and Dental Waste Removal Fee. Motion by Leary, 2nd by Peat to except the expenditures report as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator's Report: Danielle stated she wanted to address a few of Linderman's questions that he has submitted via email: 1. What was being done with the old furniture once the new furniture arrives. Was informed Habitat for Humanity doesn't want so looking at other options, such as: selling, dispose at Goodwill, check with ISD and other partners to see if interested. Suggested take metal desks to Lawrence recycling. Also suggested to contact VB County Fair to see if interested. 2. What was being done with all the PPE supplies in basement? No definitive plan yet, need to complete another inventory. She stated the PPE doesn't have expiration date and we will probably hold onto in case of another outbreak since we can no longer get these free from the state. Danielle stated the N95 masks are not medical grade and can not be used at hospital/medical centers, however can be used by us and the public.

Each board member received a copy of 2024 meeting locations. Danielle stated February and August meetings will be held at our health department facility in Lawrence. These were the only months the VBISD Conference Center cannot accommodate us. Reminders will be sent out as necessary.

Danielle gave a brief report on a recent meeting she and Nancy had with VBISD Superintendent, VB County Administrator and the Health Foundation to discuss Lawrence facility rent. Discussed at this meeting was the possibility of using the \$700,000 infrastructure grant, however this would only pay on the interest instead of paying down the loan. Currently paying \$100,000 annually on interest alone. Current variable interest rate is now up to 6.56%. Danielle stated there should be a cap on the amount of interest charged but can not find anything in any of the papers she has. She is working with Gerry Chase, Health Foundation (they built the building). Gerry is trying to work with PNC on the cap however keeps getting the run around and is now working with his legal counsel. Trying to figure out why rent went up from \$16,000 last year to \$19,000 this year. Danielle stated the health department needs to get from under this debt and she is seriously looking at all possibilities. VBISD has expressed interest in purchasing the building because they need to expand. We could lease from them but for only a short time. Also look into the possibility of having VB County pay down the loan. Each party has a task to do to bring back for another meeting. She stated both the ISD and Van Buren County have a vested interest in the property. Discussed and reviewed. Danielle stated she wanted this board to be aware of the situation and that they are doing everything they can to come up with a solution. Will take some time.

Linderman stated this is a leap year and asked if the budget already considered any and all costs associated with having an additional day. How much more will be expended and if any figures were available. Nancy stated the cost would be minimal. He asked Nancy to provide him a report on this. Discussed and reviewed.

The Administrator's written monthly report for January was given to each board member Danielle stated there was nothing new to add to this written report from any department. However, she wanted to highlight dental's report for the Dental Outreach program stating Emily, Dental Outreach Coordinator, has been successful in acquiring a grant from Delta Dental on purchasing a van to be used when conducting the school based dental program throughout Van Buren, Cass and Berrien County. Instead of using her personal car this van will be used to lug all the required dental equipment, paperwork. Danielle stated the van will be stored at her residence at this time. Delta Dental requires the vehicle to have their name on it. Discussed and reviewed.

Environmental Health Report: Danielle informed the board that should hear something soon about the DuWell PFAS area about amending the EH Code. Currently in hands of the attorneys. Waiting to hear from the EPA on approving proposed changes to the public health code on amending. Once approved from the EPA comes back to this board for a public hearing. Discussed and reviewed.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

Motion by Peat, 2nd by Hanson to break into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. All voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Peat, 2nd by Leary to return to regular session.

Motion by Linderman, 2nd by Howie to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 14th at 3pm at the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department office, 260 South Street, Lawrence MI 49064.

Dan Hanson

Robert Lumber

Ava Leary

Howie

Randy Peat

Mary Howie

Leslie A. Vaughn

Board of Health Members