

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health

Minutes

7/10/2024

Chairperson Jeremiah Jones 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: Jeremiah Jones, Tina Leary, Mary Howie, Don Hanson, Robert Linderman, Vicki Vaughn and Randall Peat.

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, Nancy Desai, Tina Cox, George Friday, Cody Davis, Chuck Peak in person and Dr. Larry Wile and Kelly Adkins virtually.

Others: Richard Darrell from Intrado, Roger Boyer and Karen Tan

June meeting minutes were reviewed. Linderman asked Tina what was being done regarding the Marana Mail System. Tina stated she believed accounting would need to look into because had to do with money and if worth pursuing. Linderman asked if anyone reached out to Van Buren ISD to see if we could piggy back with them. Danielle stated Nancy and herself will look into. Linderman asked about the status of the inventory located in the basement. Danielle stated both Jenni Zordan and Dave Whipple have been working on a plan and a majority will be moved sometime this summer. A lot of stuff has already been donated to VBISD to be used in a couple of their VoTech programs. No further discussion. Motioned by Peat, 2nd by Howie to approve the meeting minutes as written. All voting yes, motion carried.

Danielle introduced Richard Darrell from Intrado, a mobile panic alert system. Danielle began by stating originally nursing had seen how this system operated and requested that consideration be given to all field employees to have a panic button. Chuck Peak was given the responsibility to check into Intrado as well as other companies that offer something similar. Both he and the Safety Committee felt this system had a lot to offer to help our staff feel safe. Chuck stated he vetted several companies and Intrado was by far the best. Danielle stated she does not have a proposal at this time but wanted the board to see what this system does. Richard's presentation included how the system works, how detailed it could be. He stated this system is fully programmable to the needs of the company, can control door access, can be sent/viewed via text/email to desktops, laptops, phones, email, etc. System has check lists that staff can follow. Works with 911 systems. Discussed and reviewed. It was decided that more planning needs to take place to see what parts of this system we actually need. It was suggested that we also reach out to the county Sheriffs and get their input.

Each board member received a staff report regarding purchasing a vehicle for the Maintenance Department. Nancy explained that \$150,000 Infrastructure grant for fiscal year 2023-24 was received and it is our intent to purchase vehicles for those jobs that require a substantial amount of traveling to do health department business. Three quotes were received and are also attached. Each quote includes the snow plow. Nancy stated due to time constraints it was necessary to purchase the truck now and to go with Seelye of Paw Paw. This vehicle would be used by our Custodian/Maintenance Department. Nancy explained that purchasing vehicles will decrease mileage reimbursement plus the plow will save us money on hiring someone to do our plowing. Discussed and reviewed. Motion by Peat, 2nd by Mary to accept the purchase of this truck as requested. Roll call vote taken. All voting yes, motion carried.

Finance Director's Report: Expenditures highlighted and items discussed were: Linderman questioned why fees to Huntington bank were so high. Nancy stated she plans to meet with Huntington to discuss this. Motion by Peat, 2nd by Howie to except the expenditures report. Roll call vote taken. All voting yes, motion carried.

Each board member received an up to date Statement of Revenues and Expenditures report for all grant funds from October 1 2023 through June 30, 2024. Motion by Peat, 2nd by Hanson to accept this statement. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator/Health Officer's report: Nothing new to report

Nursing Report: Available in the written report

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Wile reported nursing has recently passed a state audit regarding Monkey Pox vaccine storage and handling. During this visit the state representative informed us about a project grant for this vaccine for

\$20,000-\$25,000. Employees Holly Young and Myah Nyeboer are working on this. Hope to hear something in a couple of weeks.

Dr. Wile stated that we are still seeing deaths from COVID. Most of these individuals have underlying conditions. He also reported there is another Measles case in Michigan and Avian Flu has been reported in another cattle farm in Michigan.

Dental Report: Available in the written report

Environmental Health Report: George introduced Cody Davis, EH Supervisor.

George informed the board that septic permits are increasing. Also, mosquitoes that have been known to carry EEE have been found. Last week there were 3 mosquitoes and this week 5. All specimens have been sent to the state. Waiting for their analysis.

George informed the board that 3 weeks ago the health department hosted the ServSafe Certification training. 14 took the class. He explained that each fixed food establishment needs at least 1 person to successfully take the class. Organizers were pleased with our facilities and plan to do again. He explained that food trucks do not have to take this class, they have a different type of license. Discussed and reviewed.

George gave a brief update on the DuWell PFAS situation in Hartford. 39 homes are now hooked up to municipal water supply. 11-15 still have to hook-up. Waiting until September because 1 pipe needs to be installed under the railroad and the railroad's permission is needed first. This should happen September 9th then expecting at least 1 month to complete all hook ups.

Each board member received a copy of a procurement of new EH software. George explained the last time new software was obtain was in 2011, called Sword Solutions. It has become obsolete. Due to an increase in funding decided to look at new software that is GIS base. Found FetchEH. Cody Davis, EH Supervisor showed what the software was capable of. Stating more user friendly than the other 2 companies looked at, cheaper and other health departments have implemented this and like. George gave examples on how Fetch could be used and stated will save time finding information that is needed to make a decision. The fiscal impact was reviewed with George stating there is 1-time fee of \$32,000 for transferring all data from Sword into Fetch. George stated approval from the board was needed to enter into a 2-year agreement with Fetch. Would like to see the new software up and running by January 2025. Further discussion took place. Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Linderman to purchase the software as requested, not to exceed \$50,000 and enter into a 2-year agreement. Roll call vote taken. All voting yes, motion carried.

Health Promotions: Nothing new to report

Other Business: None

Public Comment: Karen asked if Monkey Pox was a reportable disease, and if it is, what are the numbers. She was informed Monkey Pox is reportable and neither Van Buren or Cass have had a case. Karen questioned the Monkey Pox grant Dr. Wile mentioned for the vaccine. Danielle stated the money would not be used to purchase vaccine, our focus would be on education and prevention and how we would get information out to the public. The state provides the vaccine based on incidents. Karen stated it seemed like a lot of money to be used for prevention.

Karen asked if there was a comparison report on the vaccination rate vs infection rate. She stated that it seems there is a lot more COVID reported in Van Buren County vs Cass County. Questioned if there was a higher or lower vaccination rate in Van Buren County. Danielle stated that she was not aware of a comparison report but would look into. Karen stated it has been reported that those countries with a high vaccination rate have high COVID rates. Why is that. Discussed and reviewed.

Karen commented that Dr. Redfield, former CDC Director, has come out and said, his initial theory on where COVID came from was not disclosed to the public and there is a high probability it came from lab research. She asked if anyone knew if is this was also the case with the vaccine. Discussed and reviewed.

Motion by Peat, 2nd by Hanson to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried.

The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled Wednesday, August 14th at 3 pm at the Health Department office, 260 South Street, Lawrence MI 49064

Tina Leary Samuel Jones
Robert [unclear] Wiliam H. Vaughn
Don Harrison Ronald Peck
Mary [unclear]

Board of Health Members