

Hamilton County General Health District
SPECIAL MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
January 12, 2011
Minutes

1. Call to Order

At 12:30 p.m., President Tracey Puthoff called to order the special session of the Board of Health of Hamilton County General Health District followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present: President, Tracey Puthoff, Esq.; Mark Rippe; Jim Brett; Tom Chatham

District Staff: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner
Greg Kesterman, Asst. Health Commissioner
Jeremy Hessel, Director of Environmental Health
Robin Fristoe, Administrative Secretary.

Guest: Ken Sharkey, Cincinnati Health Department

3. New Business

- a. Regulation 1-2011** - Regulation adopting revised local fees for Food Service Operations, Retail Food Establishments, Vending Operations, Temporary Food Services and Mobile Food Services.

Mr. Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner for Environmental Health Services, explained that the determination of the fee changes was based on the yearly Cost Methodology required by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code. The percentage of decrease was anywhere from 15% to 20%, yet temporaries, vending and mobiles are higher with mobiles taking the greatest reduction. Mr. Chatham requested assurance that the cost accounting has been done and we can provide the services at this level to which Mr. Ingram confirmed. Mr. Ingram stated that in accordance with ORC 3717.25 and 3717.45 staff provided the twenty day public notice to all facilities alerting them that there would be a hearing on Monday, January 10, 2011 regarding the change in fees and no one attended the hearing. To date, there has been no correspondence from the public regarding the change in fees.

Mr. Brett stated that the District Licensing Council endorsed Regulation 1-2011 at the meeting held January 7, 2011.

Ms. Puthoff stated that this regulation does require $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members of the Board of Health to approve it, and having 4 out of 5 of the members present, that requirement is satisfied.

Mr. Ingram read a summary of Regulation 1-2011.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve Regulation 1-2011 – Regulation adopting revised local fees for Food Service Operations, Retail Food Establishments, Vending Operations, Temporary Food Services and Mobile Food Services; **Mr. Chatham** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Rippe, Brett, Chatham, Puthoff

Having no other business to discuss Ms. Puthoff requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. At that point Ken Sharkey, Senior Sanitarian for the Cincinnati Health Department, requested to speak.

Mr. Sharkey inquired as to the basis on which the fee changes were determined as he feels they are too low. He indicated that HCPH inspectors may not be spending enough time in establishments which in turn will jeopardize the safety of our facilities. He went on to read the fees for other county and city health departments in Ohio that are comparable to Hamilton County, of which HCPH was cheaper. Mr. Kesterman explained that the fee change was based on the Cost Methodology that is required yearly by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code. He stated there was cost savings from a reduction in mileage, digitalization of the program, staff changes and H1N1 involvement. Mr. Sharkey stated that the City Health Department also had staff involved with the H1N1 event and he was aware of the cost savings from a mileage reduction but did not feel this justified such a large decrease.

Upon subsequent questioning, Mr. Sharkey stated that he was attending the meeting on his own behalf, as a resident of Hamilton County.

Mr. Chatham advised Mr. Sharkey that if he had questions about our efficiencies this was not the appropriate way to handle it. Mr. Chatham then advised him on the appropriate manner in which to request information as well as inform him that if he and/or someone else from the Cincinnati Health Department would like to meet to discuss this matter further, a meeting could be arranged.

4. Adjournment

At 12:47p.m. **Mr. Brett** moved to adjourn the meeting; **Mr. Chatham** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Rippe, Brett, Chatham, Puthoff

Tracey A Puthoff, President

Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner