

Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
May 11, 2009
Minutes

1. Call to Order

At 6:37 p.m., President Tracey Puthoff called to order the regular session of the Board of Health of Hamilton County General Health District at Nisbet Brower in Sharonville, Ohio.

2. Roll Call of Members

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

District Staff: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner; Kathy Lordo, Asst. Health Commissioner; Nee Fong Chin, Chief Asst. Prosecuting Attorney; H. Stephen Bjornson, M.D., Medical Director; Terri Memory, Administrative Secretary.

Others Present: Johnnie Lee Rabb, Mayor of Woodlawn

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2009 Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Chatham seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Brett moved to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2009 Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

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

Approval of the April 20, 2009 Board of Health meeting minutes is tabled until the next Board of Health meeting.

4. Health Commissioner's Report

Prior to the Board of Health meeting, some of the Board of Health members met at the Emergency Response warehouse for a tour of the facility. Mr. Ingram thanked Mr. Rippe for hosting the Board of Health meeting at Nisbet Brower.

H1N1 Virus

Mr. Ingram reported that staff has done a fine job providing public health information during the H1N1 flu outbreak.

Budget Procedure - Mr. Ingram reviewed a purchasing proposal written by Ms. Hughes, Finance Officer. The proposed change in payment procedure would allow disbursements to be paid prior to the monthly Board of Health meetings. Mr. Rippe suggested that budgeted invoices over \$5,000 would need approval by the Board of Health. **Mr. Chatham** moved to approve the proposed change in accounts payable practices as outlined in Ms. Hughes, Finance Officer's memo. Invoices totaling \$5,000 or more would need Board of Health approval before payment is made.

Mr. Brett seconded the motion.

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

Staff Reports

Kathy Lordo, Assistant Health Commissioner Report - Ms. Lordo explained that her report shows a comparison in the amount of death certificates ordered in 2008 and 2009. There were more orders for death certificates purchased in 2008. A newsletter will be sent to organizations working with the Vital Statistics division, such as funeral homes.

H. Stephen Bjornson, M.D. - Dr. Bjornson reported that the H1N1 outbreak has been a learning experience for the Disease Prevention division. He reported that the virus could become stronger and that there is a possibility that two different flu vaccines will be necessary this fall.

Dr. Bjornson stated that the number of TB cases have increased in Hamilton and Clermont Counties. Most of the cases are from immigrants. Various TB testing is performed when immigrants enter the country.

Smoke-Free Ohio

A Smoke-Free Ohio hearing is scheduled for May 29, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the large conference room. Mr. Chatham will attend the hearing on behalf of the Board of Health.

Senator Robert Schuler recently introduced Senate Bill 120 which would modify the Ohio Smoke-Free Workplace law. No hearings have been scheduled to date.

Ms. Chin explained that a defendant's attorney asked if the Smoke-Free Ohio fine amounts are negotiable. According to Ms. Chin, the Smoke-Free Ohio laws can be negotiated, however, the Board of Health determined that Hamilton County Public Health will not negotiate fines with defendants.

5. Finances

Mr. Ingram stated that the financial reports continue to show Hamilton County Public Health in a positive financial position. Revenues are meeting budget projections and the expenses are below budget.

Mr. Rippe moved to approve the Mileage and Disbursements, Revenues, and Expenditures. **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

6. Adjournment

Ms. Puthoff announced that she will not be in attendance at the June 8th Board of Health meeting and that Mr. Chatham will conduct the meeting.

At 7:25 p.m. **Mr. Rippe** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Mr. Brett** seconded the motion.

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

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on June 8, 2009 at Hamilton County Public Health at 6:30 p.m.

Tracey A Puthoff, President

Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner