

**Hamilton County General Health District
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
February 9, 2015
Minutes**

1. Call to Order

At 6:30 p.m., President, Jim Brett, called to order the regular 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: Jim Brett, President
 Dr. Kenneth Amend
 Thomas Chatham
 Tracey Puthoff
 Mark Rippe

District Staff Present: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner
 Greg Kesterman, Asst. Health Commissioner
 Kathy Lordo, Asst. Health Commissioner
 Chris Griffith, Director, Water Quality
 Mike Samet, Public Information Officer
 John Teufel, Chief Financial Officer

Guests: Christopher Hall

3. Clean Kitchen Awards

Mr. Kesterman read the list of 11 Clean Kitchen Award recipients.

4. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Amend moved to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2015 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – Mr. Brett, Dr. Amend, Mr. Chatham, Ms. Puthoff – Aye; Mr. Rippe – abstain

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2015 Sewage Treatment System Public Hearing.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – Mr. Brett, Dr. Amend, Mr. Chatham, Ms. Puthoff – Aye; Mr. Rippe – abstain

5. Health Commissioner's Report – Staff Reports

Commissioner Ingram reported services to the City of Sharonville are underway and the agency has performed 79 food service inspections and has held two immunization clinics.

There are two upcoming annual meetings: The District Licensing Council convenes February 18, 10 a.m.; the District Advisory Council will hold its annual meeting March 2, noon. Commissioner Ingram encouraged Board of Health members to attend the District Advisory Council meeting, as it is charged with appointing four members to the Board. The Council will vote on Dr. Amend's re-appointment to the Board of Health.

Commissioner Ingram provided highlights of the portions of the Governor's 2015 Biennial State Budget affecting public health. These include an increase in tobacco taxes; initiatives to reduce infant mortality; and alignment of population health planning to improve health outcomes. Commissioner Ingram concluded that the initiatives are bold and it will be interesting to see them through the legislature.

a) Department of Community Health Services

Ms. Lordo provided details for a new program targeted at smoking cessation for pregnant women. Hamilton County Public Health will receive funding from the Cradle Cincinnati grant for three years, which will enable the agency to hire a resource principally to provide program planning and execution. The program will be based at the Price Hill Clinic and will focus on: training health care providers on the Five A model; establishing focus groups for pregnant women; and using new technology to reinforce messaging. Once the program is developed and evaluated, it will be replicated and introduced to other clinics throughout the County.

b) Department of Environmental Health

Mr. Kesterman provided a review of the Policies and Standards for Sewage Systems. A meeting was held with the Cincinnati Master Plumbers' Association January 27, 2015. The group was provided additional time, until February 3, 2015, to provide comment on the policies. To date, no comments have been received.

Mr. Kesterman indicated that the following changes to the proposed board policy have been made. Section 3701-29-15(F), vertical separation distance, has been removed as authority already existed from previous regulations.

Sections 3701-29-15(N)(2)(d)(ii), limiting conditions; 3701-29-15 Appendix B(II)(C), interceptor drains; and 3701-29-16(E)(4), backfill requirements; will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Sections 3701-29-01 (BBBB), repair; 3701-29-07(D), soil evaluation; 3701-29-09(I)(2), terms and conditions; 3701-29-11(B)(4), daily design flow; and 3701-29-12(G), watertight field testing; were all postponed to allow for additional review and discussion with the Ohio Department of Health.

6. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

7. Finances

Mr. Teufel reviewed the budget changes impacting the revised 2015 budget and estimated 2016 budget. These changes included: City of Sharonville contract, which has been resolved; Tuberculosis Clinic rent increase and related funding to pay for the increase by the Board of County Commissioners; adjustments for information technology personnel; foregoing assessment increases for 2016; reduction of revenue in the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps program; and an additional Health Promotion and Education hire to provide a pregnant mother smoking cessation program, as funded by Cradle Cincinnati.

Ms. Lordo explained that the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps provides a set rate per hour for time spent on cases accepted. Not all cases are accepted.

Mr. Rippe asked what measures the agency plans to implement to reduce the current rate of spending. Mr. Teufel responded that the agency would: continue to closely monitor expenses; look for revenue sources, which could include medical gas services; and increased revenue when statewide availability of death certificates becomes available. The agency would also consider non-replacement of staff positions lost through attrition. Commissioner Ingram added actual spending has historically been less than budgeted, which has served to reduce the amount of the projected deficit and reduction in cash reserves.

Mr. Rippe noted the amount of increase for rent at the Tuberculosis Clinic. Mr. Teufel reported that Hamilton County Public Health occupies 10 percent of the building and that the rent increase is being challenged by Christ Hospital.

Mr. Chatham asked if there were any benchmarks from associations of health departments for cash carry-over. Mr. Teufel committed to research the question with his peers in other Ohio counties.

Monthly Disbursements

Ms. Puthoff moved to approve the monthly disbursements.

Mr. Chatham seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

10. New Business

a) Resolution A-2015 – Adopting Policies and Standards for Sewage Systems

Mr. Rippe moved to adopt resolution A-2015.

Ms. Puthoff seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

b) Resolution C-2015 – Adopting 2015 Revised and 2016 Estimated Budgets

Mr. Rippe moved to adopt resolution C-2015

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

c) Medical Director's Contract

Dr. Amend moved to approve the contract.

Mr. Chatham seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

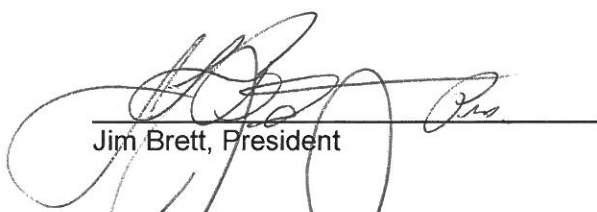
11. Adjournment

Ms. Puthoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

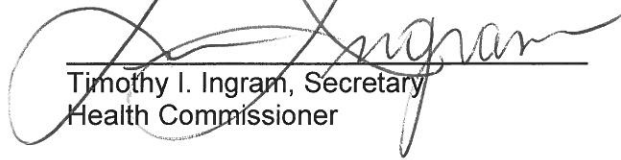
Mr. Rippe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye

Next Board of Health meeting: March 9, 2015.



Jim Brett, President



Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner