

FINDLAY CITY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

REGULAR SESSION

February 18, 2015

FINDLAY CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**Members Attendance:**

- A Mayor Lydia Mhalik, *President Ex Officio*
- X Dr. Stephen Mills, Health Commissioner/Board Secretary
- X Mr. Gregory Cline, *President Pro Tempore*
- X Mr. William Alge
- A Dr. Robert McEvoy
- A Mrs. Joan Work
- A Licensing Council Rep Vacant

**Staff Attendance:**

- X Mrs. Barbara Wilhelm, Deputy Health Commissioner
- X Mr. Craig Niese, Environmental Health Director
- X Mrs. Becky Bern, Nursing Director
- X Mr. Eric Helms, Plumbing Inspector
- X Mr. Chad Masters, Emergency Response
  
- X **Guest:** Paul Schmelzer

**Call to Order:** In the absence of the Mayor, Board President Cline called the meeting to order at 7:37 A.M.

**No official action was taken in the absence of a quorum.**

**HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT**

1. Plans are continuing for the upcoming Walk With A Doc Program that will begin in the spring. There will be 12 sessions at Emory Adams Park. This information is being shared with the City of Findlay's walking group to coordinate with the city's efforts to increase physical activity. The walks will begin at 5:30 pm. So far Dr. Cosiano has agreed to help but Dr. Mills continues to look for additional doctors and sponsors for each week's event. Dr. Mills will also be working with Blanchard Valley Hospital and with their PR and Marketing Department.
  
2. Dr. Mills referenced a letter that he was copied on from a citizen regarding the lack of movement on any trails projects in Findlay and Hancock County. A Master's Trail Plan was completed a year or two ago for Hancock County and the letter inquired as to what is being done. The writer also referenced the progress being made on Tiffin's trails. Dr. Mills noted that there will be a meeting on March 12 to discuss the Master Trail Plan and he will be in attendance. Paul Schmelzer also noted that he will be at that meeting. He noted that land acquisition, right away and easements will be one of the first orders of business for moving forward and then pursuing grant opportunities would be next. Mrs. Wilhelm asked Mr. Schmelzer if the Cory Street bike path was still in the works. Mr. Schmelzer replied that it was. This is a shared path that will extend from the University to the bridge and then from the bridge to Main St. This ODOT funding is for improving safety and providing for alternate methods of transportation. Mr. Schmelzer is in favor of working together with community partners and funders such as the Community Foundation on these types of projects.

## DEPUTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT

1. Copies of the 2014 Annual Health Department Report were included with the Board of Health packets. The format is similar to the past few years and Mrs. Wilhelm pointed out that the financial information is located on the last page. Overall cost to the general revenue fund was up slightly over last year (around \$30,000) but the cost for public health services was still less than \$0.18 per resident per week.

Mrs. Wilhelm has also recently submitted both the Annual Financial Report and the State Subsidy and Performance Report for the Ohio Department of Health. Submission is mandatory in order that we can receive our state subsidy funding. Last year the subsidy dollars amounted to around \$11,000. Mrs. Wilhelm has a copy available if anyone would like to review it. The Auditor's office reviews and signs off on the Annual Financial Report before it is submitted.

Mrs. Wilhelm also reported to the Board that she recently prepared a requisition for \$5000 for Strategic Health Partners in order that Steve Wermuth and his staff may begin looking at insurance billing and insurance contracts so that we may negotiate top reimbursement rates for a merged health department. Although this was not a budgeted item in our regular health department budget there was \$3000 remaining from the appropriation to complete the merger implementation plan so she used that money along with \$2000 from our professional services line item. It is her understanding that the Hancock County Health Department will reimburse half the cost so that she might restore the money to professional services.

A representative from Strategic Leadership Solutions presented to the department last Friday regarding a scholarship opportunity to attend LEAN Ohio boot camp. This boot camp uses principles employed in business to support faster, simpler and less costly government services. Mrs. Wilhelm did invite staff from the Hancock County Health Department to attend the presentation as it would make sense that we do this together. Mrs. Wilhelm felt this would demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement that is required for accreditation.

## NURSING REPORT

1. The nursing division is working on making sure all nursing staff are completing educational requirements for the various programs and certificates that are required.

Mrs. Bern also wanted to note a correction to last month's minutes. The sliding scale that she referenced for immunizations is for children only. Mr. Alge asked what Ohio's immunization policy for school children is in light of all the recent news regarding measles and vaccinations. Mrs. Bern noted that in Ohio it is not mandatory that you have all vaccines before entering school and a parent or guardian can also sign an exempt form. The reason for being exempt can be medical, religious or philosophical. There is a set number of days after which a parent who does not sign an exempt form must show proof of vaccination but

Mrs. Bern noted that enforcement varies among schools. Mrs. Wilhelm noted that children who are not vaccinated can then be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak. Mrs. Bern has noted that she has received numerous phone calls regarding measles vaccination. Mrs. Wilhelm added that if Mr. Alge was asking if Ohio is vulnerable she would confirm that yes-Ohio is vulnerable. For example, Alabama has a mandatory vaccination policy and they also have a 99% vaccination rate. They have not had a case of measles in many, many years. Ohio's overall immunization is around 85-85% and this is well below the recommendation of at least 90%. Mrs. Wilhelm also noted that the current measles outbreak is getting a lot of publicity but there was actually a much bigger outbreak centered around Ohio's Amish population last spring.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT**

1. The Dawn Thompson property variance is again up for yearly review. With no quorum present Mr. Niese asked if there was any new information the board would like him to present. Mr. Cline asked if there was any change in the situation to which Mr. Niese stated there was not. Mr. Schmelzer noted there is no planned development to the area and he has received no complaints. The issue will be brought up for a vote at the next Board of Health meeting.
2. Plans for the new Ralphies on Trenton Avenue were shared with the members present. They are currently working on renovating the old Ponderosa building. The kitchen layout will remain basically the same and they will be adding a bar area. They are moving a lot of their equipment from the old restaurant.
3. Mr. Schmelzer noted that the city is actively working on extending sewer services down Lima Ave. Mr. Schmelzer asked what these residents are doing currently. Mr. Niese replied that he is not sure but likely these properties have some sort of holding tank. Mr. Schmelzer also noted that he has said that it is in the best interest of public health that the homes along Lima Avenue be required to tap into the city sewer and Mr. Niese confirmed that this would be true since these lots would likely not be large enough to support an on lot system that meets current standards.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE / EPI REPORT**

1. Mr. Masters informed the Board that a long-term care facility in Findlay was experiencing a gastrointestinal outbreak among many of its employees and that he was working with the facility's Director of Nursing on receiving information for those ill employees for follow up. It appeared that there may have been a common exposure or event where the employees had been, since they were the ones who were ill, and not the residents. However, through the employee interviews, there was no common event that could be linked to the illnesses. Mr. Masters provided education materials, including a power point presentation from the CDC on Norovirus, to the facility so that employees can receive regular training on how to prevent the spread. Mr. Masters stated that he was also in communication with the Ohio Department of Health regarding the situation.

## PLUMBING REPORT

1. Mr. Helms reported that permit requests are picking up and would expect inspections to increase once the weather breaks. He also noted that he has been asked to stay on the Ohio Association of Plumbing Inspectors Board and he was going to ask Board approval for this. Mr. Cline stated that he did not believe that would be an issue.

## MEETING REQUESTS

Mr. Cline noted that employees should attend the requested meetings and the Board will give official approval at next month's meeting.

## OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Cline asked if a draft copy of the merger contract had been sent out as he had not seen one. Mrs. Wilhelm asked Mr. Schmelzer if the draft had changed as she did not have a current draft either. Mr. Schmelzer did say there had been a few minor changes. Mr. Cline asked if there was the feeling that the merger would be approved by the DAC to which Mr. Schmelzer responded that he had not heard anything negative but he could not say for sure.

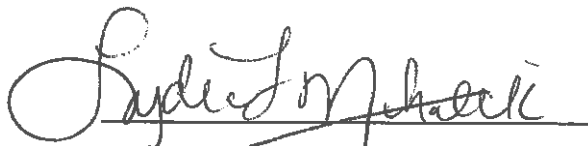
## NEW BUSINESS

None

## EXPENSES

No vote on expenses due to lack of quorum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 A.M.

 \_\_\_\_\_, President

 \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary (Health Commissioner)