



Jo Daviess County Health Department • 9483 US Rt. 20 West • P. O. Box 318 • Galena, Illinois 61036

**Jo Daviess County Health Department  
Board of Health Meeting  
Elizabeth Nursing Home, 540 Pleasant St., Elizabeth, IL 61028  
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 @ 7:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

This meeting was also hosted virtually via Zoom for any members of the public wishing to attend.

- 1. Call to Order:** President Merri Berlage called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
- 2. Roll Call:** Members present: Merri Berlage, Peg Dittmar, Don Hill, Hesper Nowatzki, Tracy Bauer, Lisa Haas, and Dr. Barbara Kepner. All members present, a quorum was established.  
Staff present: Sandra Schleicher and Marcia Christ  
Others present: Beth Baranski, Ron & Jeanie Norman, Laurie Sproule, Craig Brown, Scott Toot, and John Hay, State's Attorney  
Present electronically: Brandon Behlke
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
  - a) **Minutes from the August 5, 2020 Board of Health Meeting** – Tracy Bauer made a motion to approve the August 5, 2020 Board of Health meeting minutes; Don Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carried.
- 4. Citizens' Comments:** Merri Berlage expressed how much she appreciated citizens bringing their concerns before the board and would allow no more than 3 minutes each to present their comments.
  - Jeanie Norman first addressed the board with her concerns regarding the land application of septic waste, reinforcing that this was not just a family problem. Jeanie stated she has a petition with 26 signatures from neighbors, and expressed what has been witnessed and the health risks related to the application of human waste. Jeanie also explained her concerns when reporting violations to the Health Department for investigation.
  - Ron Norman then spoke; Ron presented a map indicating where creek water samples had been taken above and below the dump areas. Ron expressed his concerns related to the findings of the samples taken and the affects it could have.

- Beth Baranski spoke next, thanking the board for their time. Beth then read out loud a written document with her list of concerns, some of which were related to human feces, sewage treatment plant sludge, and human application. Beth questioned the lack of ordinance violations, what the expectations are, and what is considered a legitimate concern.
- Craig Brown, Attorney representing Sproule Septic Service addressed the board, stating there was no credible evidence of any violation; that the board did a comprehensive job putting together an ordinance 5 years ago and hopes the board will stand by their decision.
- Laurie Sproule spoke next, expressing that the operation on the farmland was not in violation and there is no wrong doing. Laurie then addressed the petition signed by the neighbors; she stated clearly that the Health Department monitors and directs where they can dump and asked the board to please keep in mind that run-off can come from all types of sources.

*The information submitted during citizens' comments is kept on file at the Health Department*

- 5. Financial Reports: Public Health fund, Public Health Capital Investment fund, Animal Control fund; Sandra Schleicher presented the July 2020 budget comparison reports for review** – Sandra Schleicher presented the July 2020 budget comparison reports for review; board members had no further questions or concerns.

**6. Unfinished Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action regarding public request for discussion of Jo Daviess County Private Sewage ordinance 5-8 Article A**

Board of Health members thoroughly reviewed and discussed the documentation presented per the public request, determining the same problems claimed now had been presented to the Board of Health by the same parties 5 years earlier in 2015, which at that time, the previous Board members and Matt Calvert, Director of Environmental Health, had spent a great deal of time and effort in order for significant changes to be made. Merri stated she reviewed environmental health files just from 2020 alone that included numerous reports and detailed spreadsheets which had been developed due to the request for change in 2015, and clearly shows how everything is being calculated. Sandra was asked to review the current sewage process; including filtering debris, applying remaining liquid, dumping sewage and where it can be taken, and the required reports that need to be completed. Hesper questioned whether more water samples should be taken in order to compare results with tests previously done.

Board members then agreed that the decision had been made at the last meeting and there is no evidence of noncompliance. Don Hill made a motion to take no further action at this time, seconded by Tracy Bauer. The motion carried by voice vote; 6 Ayes – Merri Berlage, Peg Dittmar, Don Hill, Tracy Bauer, Lisa Haas, and Dr. Barbara Kepner. 1 Nay – Hesper Nowatzki.

*At this time at 7:35pm Beth Baranski, Ron & Jeanie Norman, and Craig Brown left the meeting.*

**b. Discussion and action regarding isolation and quarantine ordinance**

John Hay handed out copies of a Draft of the Ordinance along with his recommendations. John asked that board members take it home to review and present at the next meeting.

Sandra briefly reviewed the current number of COVID-19 cases that have been reported, also stating that there have been concerns reported to her of masks not being worn in the community.

Tracy Bauer made a motion to move the agenda item to the next meeting; seconded by Hesper Nowatzki. All were in favor, motion carried.

*At this time at 7:40pm Laurie Sproule left the meeting.*

**c. Discussion and possible action to approve Public Health Fund (003), PH Emergency Preparedness Fund (005), PH Catastrophic Fund (046), and PH Capital Investment Fund (055) FY2021 Budgets and move forward to the Joint Committee Budget Meeting.**

- PH Emergency Preparedness Fund 005 was presented for review; Sandra explained that this is a state grant with a set amount. Members discussed COVID-19; the process of mass dispensing the vaccination when available, expanding closed pods in order to dispense and vaccinate more quickly, organizing a Table Top exercise, and the need for public education. Following further discussion, Tracy Bauer made a motion to approve FY2021 PH Emergency Preparedness Fund 005 and move forward to the Joint Committee Budget Meeting; seconded by Lisa Haas. All were in favor, the motion carried.
- PH Capital Investment Fund 055 was presented for review; Sandra explained that no additional revenue was budgeted, that potential proceeds would be from the sale of the Elizabeth property in 2020. Sandra stated that FY2021 budgeted expenses were for anticipated costs of Health Department property improvements and building projects, and for the purchase of Health Department office and clinical equipment. Don Hill noted that at this time it would be difficult to determine the cost for adding additional clinical services or for the revenue to support it. Members agreed that a feasibility study at a reasonable price would need to be considered. Following no further questions, Tracy Bauer made a motion to approve FY2021 PH Capital Investment Fund 055 and move forward to the Joint Committee Budget Meeting; seconded by Peg Dittmar. All were in favor, the motion carried.
- Public Health Fund 003 was presented; Sandra stated that budget estimations were based on current services and anticipated staff. Sandra briefly reviewed revenues and expense estimations, discussing any significant increases or decreases anticipated for FY2021. Following no further questions, Tracy Bauer made a motion to approve FY2021 PH Fund 003 and move forward to the Joint Committee Budget Meeting; seconded by Peg Dittmar. All were in favor, the motion carried.
- PH Catastrophic Fund 046 was presented; Sandra stated that the money that had previously been taken out of this fund and put into the Capital Investment Fund has been transferred back. Sandra stated that other than personnel costs, Fund 046 will be used for any anticipated funding and expenses related to the Contact Tracing Grant. Following further discussion, Lisa Haas made a motion to

approve FY2021 PH Catastrophic Fund 046 and move forward to the Joint Committee Budget meeting; seconded by Hesper Nowatzki. Merri Berlage, Peg Dittmar, Don Hill, Hesper Nowatzki, Lisa Haas, and Dr. Barbara Kepner voted in favor of the motion, Tracy Bauer chose to abstain. The motion carried.

**7. New Business**

**a. Discussion and possible action to approve documents for sealed bid of Elizabeth property**

Sandra presented Elizabeth property documents for review and approval prior to submitting a Public Notice for sealed bids. Following board member discussion, it was determined that the minimum bid for the lot with an existing garage would be changed to \$25,000. They also agreed to move the date of the next Board of Health meeting and opening of sealed bids to October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at the Health Department, and that bids would be accepted no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

Peg Dittmar made a motion to approve the documents for sealed bid of the Elizabeth property with the noted changes; seconded by Tracy Bauer. All were in favor, the motion carried.

**8. Closed Session:** At 8:23 pm Merri Berlage read the statements below; Don Hill made a motion to enter into closed session and was seconded by Dr. Barbara Kepner. All members were in favor, motion passed. Voice roll call was taken; all members were present along with John Hay, Sandra Schleicher, and Marcia Christ. The Zoom portion of the meeting was suspended for closed session. *At this time at 8:25 pm Scott Toot left the meeting.*

*a) Purchase/lease property section 2(c)5 "The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired."*

At 8:30 pm Dr. Barbara Kepner made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Peg Dittmar. Voice roll call was taken; all members, Sandra Schleicher, Marcia Christ, and John Hay were present.

**9. Possible action as a result of closed session**

Tracy Bauer made a motion to appoint Lisa Haas and Don Hill to the Residential Nursing Facility Committee; seconded by Dr. Barbara Kepner. All were in favor, the motion carried.

**10. Administrator's Comments:** Sandra reported she has been busy conducting interviews; that there has been a lot of interest in the PH Administrative Assistant position and two applicants for the RN position. Sandra also reported that staff have been working closely with schools and communicating with the public regarding quarantine requirements following reports of possible COVID exposure, noting that there have been over 6000 tests in the county.

**11. President's Comments:** no additional comments at this time

**12. Board Member Comments:** no additional comments at this time

**13. Citizen's Comments:** there were no citizen comments

**14. Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** October 1, 2020 @ 7:00 pm at the Health Department

**15. Adjourn:** Hesper Nowatzki made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Peg Dittmar. All members in favor, motion carried.