



MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 6, 2020

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Peer at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Supervisor Homan, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Winter, Mr. Gresens, and Ms. Kolste.

Board of Health Members Absent: Dr. Somaraju.

Staff Members Present: Marie-Noel Sandoval – Health Officer; Michelle Bailey – Assistant Director; Rick Wietersen – Environmental Health Director; Matt Wesson – Environmental Health Supervisor; Kelsey Cordova – Community Health Education Coordinator; Nick Zupan – Epidemiologist; Alison Chouinard – Health Educator and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Adam Elmer – Environmental Health Specialist; Jessica Turner – Administrative Services Supervisor; Randy Terronez – Assistant to County Administrator; Bridget Laurent – Deputy Corporation Counsel; Josh Smith – County Administrator

Others Present: Lori Luther - Beloit City Manager; Robert Turtenwald -- property owner; Tim Tollefson – Town Clerk, Town of Harmony; County Supervisors Purviance, Bostwick, Beaver, Mawhinney, and Bomkamp; Michael Oellerich – Attorney; Jeff Klenz – Town Board Chair, Town of Harmony; Mark Schroeder – Attorney; Travis Halverson – Morton Buildings; and Mark Freitag, Janesville City Manager.

Adopt Agenda

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Gresens seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes – 3/4/2020

Dr. Winter made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3/4/2020 Board of Health meeting. Supervisor Rynes seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Citizen Participation

Chair Peer asked for citizen participation not pertaining to appeal of sanitary permit or resolution. None at this time.

Appeal of Sanitary Permit Application Denial – 4626 E Case Rd

Mr. Wietersen gave background on the sanitary permitting and appeal process including a description of the 208 Water Quality Plan.

Mr. Wesson provided a timeline of events leading up to the sanitary permit denial appeal.

Mr. Schroeder, attorney for Mr. Turtenwald, explained the background and reason for the request for appeal.

Dr. Winter made a motion to grant a sanitary permit to 4626 E Case Rd. Supervisor Rynes seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

New Business

Administrative Division

Review of Payments

The Board reviewed the Health Department's March and April payments in the amount of \$11,973.48 and \$3,941.27 respectively.

Transfer of Funds over \$5,000

None at this time.

Health Department Report

In the News

Ms. Sandoval welcomed the newest board member, Debra Kolste.

Mr. Zupan provided the current COVID-19 statistics in Rock County. He said there have been 311 confirmed cases, over 2600 reports of negative test results, and 52 probable cases. According to Mr. Zupan, at least 44 people have recovered based on Rock County Public Health Department's definition of recovered. He explained that it is difficult to define recovery because some people begin to feel well and then get sick again. Mr. Zupan gave a demographic breakdown of the positive cases in Rock County. Rock County is seeing a higher number of Hispanic and Latino cases when compared to the statewide data.

The Board members asked Mr. Zupan questions about the data. Mr. Zupan and Ms. Bailey confirmed that some patients have shown no symptoms for a period of time and then had a resurgence of the illness. Mr. Zupan explained how projections are determined using a computer modeling system. He explained that projections are not entirely accurate, but are helpful for planning. Mr. Zupan explained that numbers can be skewed based on who is being tested, but also can be reflective of what is out in our community.

Ms. Sandoval told the Board that Ms. Turner and Ms. Cordova have been working on the website and hub to put numbers and info out to the public. Additionally, Ms. Turner and Ms. Cordova have taken a lead on a series of Q&A videos that are released weekly on Fridays. Questions can be submitted via email throughout the week.

Ms. Chouinard, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, gave an update on preparedness. According to Ms. Chouinard, personal protective equipment (PPE) is in short supply. Some Rock County organizations have

received supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile based on priority. The Rock County Emergency Operations Center is working with partners to help fill their orders and meet their needs as much as possible. The Rock County Public Health Department has donated PPE from its own supply to help a facility experiencing an outbreak. Ms. Chouinard also said she conducts a weekly meeting with the emergency coordinators from the local healthcare systems. Healthcare systems are being encouraged to test anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. According to Ms. Chouinard, additional testing supplies can be requested through the State. She also reported that the State brought in a Battelle system to decontaminate N95 masks for free with a 72 hour turn-around. They are able to decontaminate up to 80,000 masks/day and each mask can be used up to 20 times.

Mr. Wietersen reported that the Rock County Environmental Health Specialists have shifted their daily roles to help the Public Health Nurses with contact tracing and investigation calls. The Environmental Health Specialists have some experience with this from foodborne investigations. He added that they are also working with the licensed facilities to make sure they are operating safely, understanding the current rules in place, and preparing for reopening. The environmental staff also continue to do water testing and septic inspections.

Mr. Wietersen also provided an update on a water quality resolution that was passed by the Board. The resolution pertained to the water quality of Badfish Creek and the Madison Metropolitan Sewage District not disinfecting their sewage waste during winter months. The Department of Natural Resources ruled on Madison's permit as the Board recommended. It won't go into effect until March 1st of 2023, but they will have to extend their disinfection for an additional three months. They will still have a short period in the winter to do maintenance.

Ms. Sandoval added that Mr. Wietersen has also taken the lead in helping schools conduct safe graduations and is acting as an advisor to them.

Surveillance

Nothing at this time.

Community Events/Outreach

Nothing at this time.

Budget

Ms. Sandoval reported that Administrator Josh Smith has determined that the budget process will continue as planned. Ms. Sandoval stated that the budget process involves a lot of work, and the health department staff will do their best to meet deadlines.

Personnel

Ms. Bailey told the Board that the first surge capacity staff for case investigations has been the Rock County Environmental Health staff. She said the Public Health Nurses have been working solely on COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The Public Health Support Specialists have been tasked to help with the data entry. Several Public Health Nurses have been designated as trainers. She said seven LTE registered nurses have recently been hired. Through Rock County redeployment efforts, twelve Human Services Social Workers were trained this week to help. There are also about fifteen Economic Support workers awaiting training. According to Ms. Bailey, the State has 400 new contact tracers, however they only do limited calling and investigation. Ms. Bailey said she is looking into more options for additional help.

Ms. Bailey answered questions from the board members. She said all meetings, trainings, and case follow-ups are being done remotely. Ms. Sandoval told the Board that the Health Officers across the state have daily meetings and are in constant communication with each other.

Ms. Cordova told the Board that she has been serving as the Public Information Officer and Surge Capacity Staff Coordinator for this situation. She has been working closely with the Rock County Redeployment Coordinator to bring on Human Services staff and coordinates scheduling, equipment, and training. She also announced that the Rock County Public Health Department recently hired a new Health Educator, Shari Faber. Ms. Faber is well-known in the community and the Rock County Public Health Department is excited to have her on the team.

Ms. Sandoval reiterated that contact tracers need to have specific skills in order to do the job. It is not just something that anyone can do easily.

Resolution: Encouraging the Rock County Public Health Department to Share the Address of all Positive COVID-19 Tests with Local Government Agencies

Supervisor Homan made a motion to move the resolution. No second was made. The resolution did not go forward.

City Manager of Beloit, Lori Luther, spoke in support of the resolution.

Ms. Sandoval explained to the Board what information is being shared.

City Manager of Janesville, Mark Freitag, spoke in support of the resolution.

Ms. Sandoval read a note from the Office of Civil Rights and explained reasons for not sharing certain information.

Supervisor Rynes spoke in opposition to the resolution.

Communications and Announcements

Chair Peer asked everyone to remember that it is hard to do the work that we do, everyone is dealing with a lot of things, and procedures have been in place for years and we should trust our professionals and thank them for the good job they are doing.

Dr. Winter reminded everyone that this is a new pandemic, everyone is in a learning curve, and everyone is doing the best they can. She asked everyone to keep their minds open and be a little kinder.

Adjournment

Dr. Winter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Meyers seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Turner; Recorder
Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health