



LAWRENCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2122 So. 8th Street
Ironton, OH 45638
740-532-3962



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Lawrence County Health Department

Georgia Dillon, APRN, CNP
Health Commissioner

Jim Meadows, MD
Medical Director

Lawrence County Board of Health July 19, 2022, Minutes

Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 4:08 PM. Board Members present included: Randy Lambert (President), Mark Dickess, and Brenda Shipley.

Also present was Georgia Dillon (Health Commissioner), Zach Schweinsberg (Fiscal Officer), Paul O'Banion (Director of Environmental Health), Jim Ridgeway, Will Ridgeway (Jim Ridgeway's Father).

Discussion of Jim Ridgeway Complaint: Randy Lambert decided to first address agenda item 4.b *Discussion of Jim Ridgeway Complaint*. Paul O'Banion provided an update regarding the situation. Paul reported that himself and Garrett Carpenter were at Lee Augarten's property on 07/19/2022 (the day of this meeting) and looked at the water meter. The water meter was observed to have a lock placed on it. It was determined that Lee Augarten placed the lock on the water meter. Paul talked to Tony Howard with Hecla Water Company, and Tony stated that Hecla Water never places locks on water meters. Paul knocked on the door of the residence to speak with the residents, but no one appeared to be home. It was noted that not even the dogs appeared to be inside the home since they were not barking in response to Paul's knocking. Randy Lambert asked Jim Ridgeway if he knew whether anyone was still living in Lee Augarten's house. Jim Ridgeway stated that people were still living in the home. Jim reportedly spoke to one of the tenants, named Elizabeth, who stated Lee Augarten had the water shut off to the residence for the past 27 days (approximately). Further, Jim stated that Lee Augarten shut off the water to encourage the renters to move out of the home.

Paul also reported that water was coming up out of a pipe in Lee Augarten's yard, but Paul was unable to determine the source of the water. Paul was able to tell that the water was not coming from the leech bed. Paul stated that he has been going to Lee Augarten's property to use a monitoring vent to observe the water levels in the leech bed. Paul stated that the last time he checked before 07/19/2022, the water level in the leech bed was approximately 11.5 inches. Paul stated that the water level was approximately 18 inches on 07/19/2022. Paul presumes that the water is just ground water since the water meter is shut off to the house.

Further discussion occurred regarding Lee Augarten and Jim Ridgeway in general. Mark Dickess asked Paul O'Banion if he felt the leech bed was functioning as far as we intended. Paul said he felt it was alarming to see the water level rise to 18 inches without any rain, but for now, the water level should continue to be monitored to estimate the percolation of the soil. Mark Dickess asked Paul O'Banion when he observed the water level at 11.5 inches. Paul stated that he did not remember and would have to refer to pictures he had taken to determine the date.

Randy Lambert asked Paul O'Banion if Lee Augarten had made the repairs that Lee Augarten mentioned at the Board of Health meeting on 06/22/2022. Paul said that it appeared that Lee Augarten had made those repairs.

Further discussion occurred regarding Lee Augarten's renters and the living conditions of the renters.

Mark Dickess clarified that he was not struck by Lee Augarten at the Board of Health Meeting 06/22/2022. The following conversation occurred:



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Jim Ridgeway: *"I heard him [Lee Augarten] last week run Paul down like he did stuff here criminally and was mean to him and all that stuff, that's nothing further from the truth. And, uh, just hasn't been that way at all. You know, I want you guys to know that, I mean straight up, you know. Because I heard him out in the hallway accusing you guys..."*

Will Ridgeway: *"That fellow was real pushy. He's real pushy."*

Mark Dickess: *"Let me clarify something that I had heard too. He did not strike me. Um, and I think we've got a whole room full of witnesses"*

Will Ridgeway: *"Didn't he move his chair over there and kinda give you this a couple times [pats Mark Dickess on the cheek lightly] and you pushing him away?"*

Mark Dickess: *"No, I stepped on his wife's foot and we kind went [raises hands up in the air] ah like that."*

Will Ridgeway: *"I seen him backhand you into the chest one time and a little clip on the jaw."*

Brenda Shipley: *"No, nothing, did not happen."*

Mark Dickess: *"You're out of your mind."*

Brenda Shipley: *"Yeah, nothing like that happened."*

Mark Dickess: *"I'm sitting right here with six witnesses that were in this room and let me tell you something. You guys have a ton of grievances with these folks. Our concern is this leech bed. We don't care about the county road, we don't care about the culverts, we don't care about whether they smoked dope in 1970, our issue with the Health Department is with this leech bed. Right now, it is operating. If it is not operating, and we're going to monitor it, we will continue to monitor it, and the moment it fails, we have given, we're going to have a cease-and-desist order. Which sounds like its kind of already been there. But this fabricating beatings and worrying about what he is or isn't going to do with that is, unfortunately, none of our concern. Okay, so I don't know what else can be said."*

Further discussion was had regarding the monitoring of the leech bed system. Randy Lambert recommended that Paul O'Banion try to check the water level in the leech bed at least twice per week. The Board of Health did not decide to take any action in addition to what had already been decided at previous meetings.

Jim Ridgeway and Will Ridgeway left the Board of Health meeting at 4:33 PM.

The Board of Health advised Paul O'Banion to keep written documentation of his observations of this leech bed system moving forward.



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Approval of Minutes: Randy Lambert asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Health meeting held on 07/11/2022. Mark Dickess made the motion to approve the minutes, Brenda Shipley seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Motion to approve expenditures and financial reports: Mark Dickess made a motion to approve the expenditures and financial reports. Brenda Shipley seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Approval of Dental Sealant Contract: Brenda Shipley made a motion to approve the proposed service contract between Rhonda Cahal and Lawrence County Health Department. Mark Dickess seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Sanitation Report: The Board of Health reviewed the environmental health report. Georgia Dillon noted that the food survey was completed last week and that the Health Department would know the results next week.

Personnel: Mark Dickess made a motion to adjust the pay schedule of part-time employees to match the pay schedule of full-time employees. Brenda Shipley seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Next, the Board of Health reviewed a new organizational chart. The organizational chart placed the vital statistics staff under the Fiscal Officer and moved the Accreditation Coordinator to be co-equal with the Fiscal Officer, Director of Environmental Health, and Director of Nursing. Additionally, the position of Administrator was added in its own level just below the Health Commissioner. Mark Dickess made a motion to approve the revised organizational chart. Brenda Shipley seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Next, Debbie Fisher addressed the Board of Health regarding continuing education credits that are required for members of the Board of Health under the Ohio Revised Code. It was agreed that the Board of Health would spend 10 minutes of each monthly meeting to review educational materials. Debbie also stated that in 2021, two new programs were added to the list of mandated programs under Ohio Revised Code 307.631 and Ohio Revised Code 3701.044, which are the Drug Overdose Fatality Review and Suicide Fatality Review, respectively.

Debbie also brought up comments being left on Facebook posts made by Lawrence County Health Departments. The Board of Health agreed that the best course of action was to not respond to any negative comments left on the Health Department's Facebook page and to not delete any comments left on any of the Department's Facebook posts. Mark Dickess pointed out that the Health Department could decide to disable the comments feature entirely, but could not selectively delete comments.

Acceptance and Approval of Reports: Mark Dickess made a motion to accept and approve the reports received by the Board of Health. Brenda Shipley seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Pay Bills and Salaries: Mark Dickess made a motion to pay the bills and salaries. Brenda Shipley seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.



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Employee Severance Fund Payments: The Board of Health discussed how much vacation time had been accrued by employees at the Health Department who were hired prior to March 5th, 2008. Currently, there are three (3) employees at the Health Department who were hired before this date, namely Georgia Dillon, Paul O'Banion, and Debbie Fisher. Zach Schweinsberg provided information related to the vacation accruals for these employees, which were as follows:

Vacation Accruals for LCHD Employees Hired before 03/05/2008		
Employee Name	Hours Accrued	Cash Value (Current Pay Rate x Hrs)
Georgia Dillon	981.95	\$43,205.80
Debbie Fisher	494.90	\$12,709.03
Paul O'Banion	1,439.25	\$32,210.42

Mark Dickess made a motion to pay Georgia Dillon for 500hrs, Paul for 500hrs, and Debbie for 200hrs, of accrued vacation time, from the Health Department Severance Costs Fund (E20). Brenda Shipley seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed. After accounting for the cost of OPERS and Medicare Taxes, the payouts will cost approximately \$25,399.00 for Georgia Dillon, \$12,918.86 for Paul O'Banion, and \$5,929.52 for Debbie Fisher.

Brenda Shipley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mark Dickess. All were in favor, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 08/17/2022 at 4:00 PM in the Conference Room of Lawrence County Health Department.

Minutes Approved by:


Randall Lambert, BOH President

8/17/2022
Date