

**MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

The McDonough County Board of Health regular meeting was held in the board office on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Dr. Amy Waschull, President.

Members Present: Dr. Amy Waschull, Terra Litchfield, Dr. Karen Blakeley, Roger Ward, Gwynne Worthington, Andrea Ratermann, and Dr. Richard Minter

Members Absent: Dr. Nicholas Doll

Staff Present: Kerri Allen, Chris Adams, Kathy Cleer and Ben Thompson

Visitors Present: none

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Dr. Amy Waschull.

Public Comment:

none

Minutes:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GWYNNE WORTHINGTON AND SECONDED BY ANDREA RATERMANN TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2021 MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

Claims:

ROGER WARD MADE A MOTION; SECONDED BY DR. RICHARD MINTER FOR THE APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2021 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$112,452.37. MOTION CARRIED.

Reports:

Board of Health- none

County Board- none

Directors Reports-

Environmental Health Division

Chris Adams, Environmental Health Director

Chris Adams reported that the environmental staff went to a sewage training in Lasalle to keep up their CEU's. McDonough and Hancock counties each had a batch of mosquitoes test positive for West Nile Virus. EH has been busy with food, water and sewage checks. They had four sewage applications, two well checks and a geothermal well has been completed. We will have a MOU (memo of understanding) with Schuyler and

Henderson County for the new computer software program. The food inspections forms will be in a digital format and we will be able to email the reports instead of having the paper forms to fill out. These reports will be saved in the cloud and be able to access later. Schuyler and Henderson County will be paying a share of the software cost for this program. We have written the cost of the program into our Comprehensive Health Protection Grant. It costs \$14,000 for the initial start up and installation of the program and will be approximately \$8000 per year after that. McDonough will pay the setup fees. Chris stated that many of the surrounding counties use this program.

Community Health Division

Kerri Allen, Community Health Director

Kerri reported that we are still offering all our services in Community Health. She has hired a new CD nurse, Ashley Parks, who will start at the end of September. Hopefully she will be able to hit the ground running since she has training in communicable disease.

Administrator's Report

Kerri Allen, Interim Administrator

Kerri wanted to give our staff a pat on the back for continuing to come to work and do our jobs. Chris Adams reached the fifteen-year milestone with the health department. The health department continues to work on spending out the contact tracing and mass vaccination grants. IDPH mentioned more money will be coming. They just don't know how much or when. The health department administrators had a meeting with Dr. Ezike recently and some of the administrators said if the criteria remain the same for the contact tracing grant, they won't take the grant again or extend it. Many of the partnerships we have with community partners has blossomed. Kerri has reached out to the County about the ARPA grant funds but has not heard back from anyone. Kerri mentioned that other county entities have received ARPA funds.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID 19 UPDATES

Ben Thompson said they are reporting cases weekly. McDonough County has had 3479 cases of Covid: 46 new cases, 3368 recovered, and 65 deaths. Cases are on the rise across the United States. Region 2 has a 5.5% positivity rate and McDonough County is at an 3.5% test positivity rate. Almost every county in Illinois is on warning status. It has been reported that 41.29% of the population has been vaccinated. We are now charging a \$10 admin fee for BinaxNow testing. We are starting up the call center again starting on Monday, September 20th. We have hired a new contract tracing person that started this week and is currently training for the job. If we start boosters, we will be ready. We will be providing courier service for WIU, MDH, SRC and Hancock County Health Department to take the Covid tests to Springfield. We have meetings every third Wednesday with County Partners about Covid related topics. We are working with the schools on criteria for masks and testing at the schools. Dr. Waschull signed standing orders so schools could test. We have received a new batch of BinaxNow tests. We are working on setting up times for vaccinations in schools and sites for community clinics. We receive \$8 for every test submitted to the state. We are currently dealing with an outbreak at Rushville School. They didn't not sign up for Shield testing.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH

Dr. Waschull reported at the last Administrator Search Meeting that Bill Corbin agreed to \$100 per hour for a consulting fee and he said it should only be 10 to 12 hours of work total. Dr. Waschull has a contract for him to sign. There are only four or five people that are qualified out of all the applicants. Gwynne Worthington will be the contact person with Bill Corbin to set up interviews. They plan to have the interview scheduled before the next board meeting.

STORAGE, BUILDING, GROUND DISCUSSION

We have received five bids on the building. Some are more detailed than others. Collins Concrete was the only person that took the time to meet with Ben and see the location. The only thing their bid excluded was the exterior landscaping. He also spoke with the city about our plans. Gwynne Worthington suggested that we look at the vacant Petland building that is for sale. They have reduced the price to \$187,000. Kerri and Ben with go with Terra Litchfield, Gwynne Worthington and Roger Ward to look at the building.

Roger Ward made a motion and was seconded by Dr. Richard Minter to accept the Collins Concrete bid for the new building contingent upon viewing the Petland building and declining it as an option. All members present voted Yes. Dr. Nicholas Doll was absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BOARD MEMBER SEARCH

Terra Litchfield suggest Beck Mahr. She is a retired professor from WIU. She was in HR and a Professor of Business. Jamie Thorman Covey was another suggestion. Kerri will reach out to Becky and see if she is a good candidate then will send the recommendation onto the County Board Chairman, Scott Schwerer.

FY 2022 DRAFT BUDGET

Kerri Allen passed out a draft budget. She presented this budget to the Finance Committee last week. It contains a 2% COLA raise for the staff. She also has put a full time PIO position on the budget as a new staff member. It was suggested by the consultant, Miriam Link-Mullison, that we should consider hiring a full time PIO and a part time IT person. Kerri didn't put a part time IT person in the budget this year. Kerri presented the tax levy request to the county and requested the maximum amount. She also requested \$25,00 for the TB San Board. Roger Ward asked if the salary amounts keep us in line with other health departments. Kerri 's response was the nurses' salaries are more competitive, but the sanitarians and administrative staff need to be raised. Roger Ward suggested implementing a bonus program.

ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT

Miriam Link-Mullison suggested on the new contract for the administrator, that the dues and organizations clause be taken out and the reimbursement for out of state require prior approval by the board. It was also noted that the November 30th contract would expire if not renewed by September 1 and the comp time and hazard pay clause be removed from the contract.

DR. RICHARD MINTER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT AND WAS SECONDED BY ANDREA RATERMANN. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourn:

ANDREA RATERMANN MADE A MOTION AT TO ADJOURN AND WAS SECONDED BY ROGER WARD AT 8:44 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Kathy Cleer
Business Office Manager/CFO

NOTE: The next BOH meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7 pm.