

**MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021**

The McDonough County Board of Health regular meeting was held in the board office on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Dr. Amy Waschull, President.

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

Members Absent: none

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

Visitors Present: Jennifer Cunningham

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 by President Dr. Amy Waschull.

Public Comment:

none

Minutes:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDREA RATERMANN AND SECONDED BY TERRA LITCHFIELD TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2021, MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

Claims:

GYWNNE WORTHINGTON MADE A MOTION; SECONDED BY DR. NICHOLAS DOLL FOR THE APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$123,562.25. MOTION CARRIED.

Reports:

Board of Health- none

County Board- Terra Litchfield recommended a health department person come and speak at the County Board meeting. She would like for someone to explain the lag time between someone getting tested and when they get the call that they are positive. Ben Thompson will go and give a presentation on contact tracing and the timeline from when the person gets their test and the behind-the-scenes process that takes place until you get called. It was also brought up that Penny Thompson is not paying her restitution money monthly as the court had ordered. Terra was going to speak to the Circuit Clerk's office to find out why this is not being enforced.

Directors Reports-

Environmental Health Division

Chris Adams, Environmental Health Director

Chris Adams reported that the McDonough County has had another batch of mosquitoes test positive for West Nile Virus and the press release went out Monday. We need to have some 45-degree weather or cooler to knock down mosquito activity. We need to remind the public to practice the three R's while outside and protect themselves as they go outside for evening activities. We are still out doing food inspections. We are promoting radon action awareness week and offering radon kits to the public for half price. As Board of Health members, you get a free radon kit. It's a do-it-yourself kit. We have recently had a human death due to rabies up north. We haven't had a death since 1952. The person woke up with the bat attached to their neck. They opted to not be treated and died. Rabies is always fatal if not treated.

Community Health Division

Kerri Allen, Community Health Director

Kerri reported that we had the state flu clinic scheduled for WIU on October 21 from 8:30 to 3:30. They will be setting up outside as a drive through clinic if weather permits. They have the Heritage Room reserved in case of rain. We will be having a flu clinic for county employees on the third floor in the Law and Legal Library on October 26th from 10 to noon. Stacey Alexander will send out a notice to county employees with the information. Kerri is in the process of hiring more contractual people to help with Covid clinics.

Administrator's Report

Kerri Allen, Interim Administrator

Kerri reported that Ben Thompson will celebrate 5 years of service with the health department in November. Very recently she found out the Contact Tracing grant and Mass Vaccination grant will be extended for another 6 months to a year, and they will be adding more money to both grants. We just don't know how much. Many health departments are debating on whether they will take the grants again this coming year. We will keep the grants for the funding and hire additional contractual staff to ease the burden on the employees. The Mass Vaccination grant funds will be distributed up front where the Contact Tracing grant will be a reimbursement. On November 8th, Bedwell Services will remove both the trees on our South lot. Kerri met with Benton and Associates about the restroom remodel so they can be made handicap assessable. The cabling work is complete in our building. The spent four Fridays here getting that done. We have ordered staff all new computers with Microsoft 365 capabilities. All our old computers were running off Windows 7 which is no longer being updated with security patches. It poses a security risk since it can no longer be updated. Kerri reached out to Gretchen DeJaynes about the ARPA funds, and she told Kerri that she needs to have Terra submit our request to the County Board. Kerri said she will be bringing IPLAN to the board meeting next month for approval. Our PIO, Raeva Farris-Tucker has resigned. She is doing some website work and once that is finished, she will be done. Kerri moved Niki Duffy into the PIO position on an Interim basis.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID 19 UPDATES

Ben Thompson gave a power point presentation on the Covid updates. (See attachment) He said they have revamped the graphic and removed the city data. It is still available on the IDPH website. Ben gave an explanation on how contact tracing works. The vaccine schedule is on getyourcovidshot.com. On November 2 and 3, Pfizer will have vaccine available for ages 5 to 11. We are currently offering courier services for WIU, SRC, MDH and Hancock County. We have been having mass vaccination clinics at the health department and at the former Farm King building. Contractual workers have been doing the clinics and the in house staff have been doing the case investigation.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH

Dr. Waschull reported at the last Administrator Search Meeting has met with Bill Corbin. There were 11 or 12 applicants with only 4 being qualified and meeting the criteria. Mr. Corbin will be setting up interviews in the next week or two with three of the applicants. Dr. Waschull asked the members who would like to be present for the interview process. Dr. Minter, Terra Litchfield, Andrea Ratermann, Gwynne Worthington, Roger Ward and Dr. Blakeley said they would like to be present. Dr. Waschull would like to invite Schuyler Board of Health member Holly Cain. Dr. Waschull requested that Kathy Cleer be present at the interviews as well. They have one applicant coming from Chicago and would like to pay for a hotel room if he requests it, since he is traveling a distance.

BUILDING, GROUND DISCUSSION

Kerri and Ben attended the Zoning Meeting tonight. The rezoning of the south lot did not pass. The storage unit could still be built on the east property since it's zoned business, but it was recommended that we have an engineer draw up plans since it is next to a state road. We are purchasing a few things with the DCEO money and giving the remainder to the county. There was discussion on the Petland building.

DR. RICHARD MINTER MADE A MOTION TO SUBMIT A BID OF \$50,000 FOR THE PETLAND BUILDING CONTINGENT UPON PENDING INSPECTION AND WAS SECONDED BY DR. NICHOLAS DOLL. ALL MEMBERS SAID YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

FY 2022 BUDGET

Kerri handed out a copy of the FY 22 budget. The only change that was made was to bump Dennis Phillips, our janitor, up to \$12 an hour. There was discussion on giving pay increases based on evaluations and merit increases on an individual basis.

ANDREA RATERMANN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2% BUDGET AND DR. RICHARD MINTER SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS SAID YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

TERRA LITCHFIELD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY22 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AND WAS SECONDED BY DR. NICHOLAS DOLL. ALL MEMBERS SAID YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

FY 2022 BENEFITS FOR STAFF, FAMILY & BOH MEMBERS

DR. RICHARD MINTER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BENEFIT SCHEDULE FOR EMPLOYEES, FAMILY AND BOH MEMBERS AND WAS SECONDED BY DR. KAREN BLAKELEY. ALL MEMBERS SAID YEA. MOTION CARRIED.

MCHD & SCHD CONTRACT

Kerri handed out the contract for the members to review. Action will be taken on the contract at the next board of health meeting in November.

BOARD COMMENTS

Roger Ward asked about food trucks with permits since there seems to be more of them coming in. Chris said they are coming in and getting permits and getting inspected.

Adjourn:

TERRA LITCHFIELD MADE A MOTION AT TO ADJOURN AND WAS SECONDED BY GWYNNE WORTHINGTON AT 8:59 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Kathy Cleer
Business Office Manager/CFO

NOTE: The next BOH meeting will be Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7 pm.