

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 20, 2020

The Fulton County Board of Health met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 12:15 p.m. at the Fulton County Office Building in the large conference room. Board members in attendance were: Health Officer, Kevin Reyburn, M.D.; Board President Harry Webb, P.D.; Vice President Jana Vance, Julius Sitjar, M.D.; Robin Surface, D.V.M.; Linda Baldwin; Priscilla Crill; Shannon Shepherd, Environmental Director; Carrie Ranstead, Registrar; Dawn Risten, Food Service Inspector/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Andrew Perkins, Health Department Attorney. Rhonda Barnett was absent.

Harry Webb called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Harry Webb asked the board members if they received and read the minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting. Dr. Sitjar made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Robin Surface seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Harry Webb asked the board members if they received and read the minutes from the September 18, 2020 meeting with the Fulton County Historical Society on behalf of the Trail of Courage Festival. Linda Baldwin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Sitjar seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Public participation: No members from the public were present.

Staff Reports:

Carrie Ranstead, Registrar, gave the cash balances as of October 20, 2020; Health Department general fund (1159) \$95,164.17; Local Health Maintenance (1168) 208,204.61; IN Local Health Department Trust Account (1206) \$204,347.07.

The State Department of Health will be implementing a new program for the Vital Records division. We will be able to locate records in other counties but not issue them. There are times when customers are not sure which county a birth or death record is located. I have been taking the trainings that have been available for the new program and the state will let us know later this year when the program will begin.

We are now set up with PayGov to accept debit and credit cards. We will be able to process payments for each division of the health department.

Rhonda Barnett was absent today so Dawn Risten reported for both of them as they have been working together during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Hickory Creek Nursing Home had some of their staff and most of the residents test positive for COVID-19. Due to that spreading through the nursing home and a few residents passing away the state sent in the strike team to help.

Rhonda and Dawn have been making phone calls for contact tracing for the people that have tested positive for the virus. The state has been contacting people but they don't always get them called right away. At this time we are seeing all age groups testing positive.

Rhonda has added an extra day some weeks for the immunization clinic to keep up with everyone that needs vaccines. They are booked until the end of December.

Rhonda and Dawn are attending the weekly meetings with the COVID team.

Dawn Risten, Food Inspector/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator reported she has issued 7 permits, has gone on 7 inspections and followed up on 5 complaints. Dawn has received a few complaints on some of the restaurants. At that time she will contact the restaurant or go out and speak with the owner or manager. After that she will send a violation letter and give them time to correct the problem. When she receives more complaints she will send out a cease and desist letter.

The Dockside restaurant at Nyona Lake had to shut down for 2 days due to a karaoke night they had and someone was positive for COVID. They took appropriate measures and cleaned the restaurant before they re-opened.

Larger retail stores are inquiring about the enforcement of the mask mandate. They are still having customers come in the stores without a mask.

The Trail of Courage was held on October 3rd and 4th, 2020. They had postponed the event from the original date in September due to the restrictions that were in place according to the Governor's guidelines. We were not notified ahead of time of the new dates for the Trail of Courage.

Harry Webb asked how many positive cases have come through in one week now that our numbers are increasing each day. Dawn said there has been 52 positive cases in one week. Dr. Sitjar stated that Hickory Creek had 17 staff and residents that tested positive. As of today when he called to check on the residents there are a total of 24 out of 29 residents that are positive.

Shannon Shepherd, Environmental Director reported, she has conducted 21 soil evaluations, 28 site evaluations, 43 inspections, issued 19 onsite sewage permits, granted 19 building releases, issued 3 new installer certifications and conducted 28 complaint investigations.

The Indiana Department of Health will begin referring commercial projects to the county health departments starting in 2021. The health department has been

working with Attorney Perkins creating templates for cease and desist orders. This was needed due to Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders.

A memorandum of understanding was entered into between the health department and the Newcastle Township Trustee and Newcastle Township Community Center Board of Directors. The memorandum of understanding states the Newcastle Township Community Center's replacement onsite sewage system will be pumped prior to holding any event of 175 people or more. The memorandum of understanding also states the Newcastle Township Community Building's replacement onsite sewage system will be serviced and or maintained every three (3) years by a licensed pumper and documentation provided to the health department.

Issued a violation notice and fine against AAA Sewer and Draining Cleaning. The company worked on an onsite sewage system without the required permit and certification. The company was issued a \$200 certification fine and a \$300 permit fee fine. The fines were paid, a permit was obtained, and the company's certification was obtained.

An agreed order was entered into between the Fulton County Health Department and Rochester Motel. The agreed order addresses health and sanitary issues within the Motel. The health department was awarded judgement fees with regards to this case, for attorney costs.

The unfit for human habitation health orders issued against a property owner on 450 North/250 East and Camp Shohola Drive were upheld in court. Both properties have since been vacated. The health orders pertained to an onsite sewage system draining into the Tippecanoe River and a residence that had no running water respectively.

Four (4) onsite sewage system permit applications were denied as the design plans submitted did not meet code and regulations.

Health Officers Report:

Dr. Reyburn is seeing the older population that have the virus are surviving. Some people that have other health issues are having a harder time recovering from the virus. When they come out with a vaccine, it will be important for the older people to get the vaccine right away. With the outbreak at Hickory Creek Nursing Home you can see how fast this virus spreads.

There have been some questions with the larger stores in town about enforcing the mask mandates. The stores will have to tell people not to come in unless they have a mask on. The law enforcement cannot be there to enforce the rules and if they would get a call the people will be gone before the law enforcement would have time to get there.

The schools have been back to in person learning and he has not seen very many children that have tested positive. The problem is when the staff test positive or have been exposed and need to be off work for a few days. That makes it hard for the school to get enough people to cover in order to keep the schools open.

The state has the testing site opened and have been administering a lot of tests. This test is free and they swab the nose for the test.

Health Department Attorneys report:

Attorney Perkins has put in 17 hours working on health department matters from July 1-October 19th. Less than half of that was in regards to the Fulton County Historical Society on behalf of the Trail of Courage. This matter was due to the restrictions that were in place from the Governors Executive Orders limiting the amount of people gathering at an event. The rest of the time was working on septic property issues and the license of a soil scientist that Shannon was having problems with.

After speaking with the Prosecutor and the Sherriff's office about the Trail of Courage, they did not want to take further action for the violations or enforcing the restrictions.

Jana Vance, Superintendent of Rochester Community Schools reported the absenteeism is about 13% now due to children being exposed to COVID-19 because of a household member that has tested positive. Also teachers, other staff and bus drivers are out at this time. It is difficult to replace staff when there are so many out at one time. They do not want to close school and go back to online only due to the parents needing to be home with the children. This makes it very difficult for the parents that work and cannot always be home to help the children.

Jana Vance also spoke about the upcoming high school sectional football game that Rochester was hosting. Since the number of positive cases has been on the rise the last few days she felt like the school needed to limit the amount of people attending the sectional game. After discussion with the rest of the board members, Dr. Reyburn and Attorney Perkins they came up with a resolution for Jana Vance to submit to the IHSAA.

The resolution follows:

WHEREFORE, Fulton County has seen a recent resurgence of more than 50 positive tests (approximately 17% of the County's total positive tests) of the COVID-19 virus in the last week, putting its residents at additional risk.

Therefore, it is resolved that the Fulton County Board of Health disapproves of having a large crowd of spectators present for the Boys Football Sectional to be held on October 23, 2020, and believes it should be limited to participants, coaches and support staff, and immediate family. Mask wearing will be mandatory.

Robin Surface made a motion to accept the resolution as stated and Dr. Sitjar seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Old business:
Nothing to report.

New business:
Re-appointment of Harry Webb for a four year term starting January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2024.
Robin Surface made a motion to re-appoint Harry Webb for a 4 year term and Linda Baldwin seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.
This re-appointment will be passed on to the Commissioners for their signature.

New business:
New position for Health Educator/Nurse. This position will be paid \$45,000 per year plus benefits.
Robin Surface made a motion to start the process with this new position.
Dr. Sitjar seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.
This position will be sent to the Job Classification Committee and the County Council for review.

Next meeting is January 19, 2021.
There being no more business to come before the board,
Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Carrie Ranstead
Vital Records Registrar