

Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday February 06, 2024

Commissioners Chambers

Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Maria Stamp, Dr. Linda Boxum, Robyn Lane, Dr. Chris Osan, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Dr. Kimberly Brunt, Terry Wuletich

Absent: Kathy Lemmon

Dr. Linda Boxum calls the meeting to order and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Dr. Chris Osan makes a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Kimberly Brunt seconds the motion and it is passed with a 5-0 vote. Dr. Fleming was absent for the first vote.

Dr. Boxum announces that the next Board of Health meeting will take place on March 05 at 5:30pm in the Commissioner Chambers of the Porter County Administration building.

New Business: None to report.

Old Business: None to report.

Report of Board Attorney: Attorney Hollenbeck makes mention to the fact that several tattoo parlors in the area have not paid their annual dues yet. He also mentions that there exists a short list of restaurants with delinquent permit fees.

Claims and Receipts: Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Dr. Fleming makes a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Terry Wuletich seconds the motion and it is passed with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Reports of the Committees, Staff and Health Officers: Carrie Gschwind says that Porter County Sherriff Jeff Balon could not attend this meeting but will have a proposal ready for next month's meeting.

Carrie introduces Shannon Burhans, CEO of the Portage YMCA. Shannon gives a presentation for a proposed contract between the Portage YMCA and the Porter County Health Department for a chronic disease prevention program. She goes on to talk about the different programs that are available at the Portage YMCA.

Dr. Fleming calls for a motion to approve the requested financial assistance for the Portage YMCA proposed programs. Dr. Brunt seconds the motion and it passes with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Carrie Gschwind speaks on the updates made to the health department main page and the Health First Indiana tab.

Carrie Gschwind gives an update on staffing changes within the health department. She mentions that Kris Contrino is the new Grants & Contracts Specialist and Kendra Lester has been promoted to Office

Manager for the health department. Carrie also mentions that Leesa Faris is the new Billing Specialist for the health department, and says that Kelli Burke will be the new Vital Records Clerk for the health department.

Carrie goes on to extend an invitation to the entire health department to attend the March Board of Health meeting. She says that there are a lot of new faces within the department and this would be a good way to introduce everyone.

Carrie Gschwind says the health department has started to receive requests for grant proposals.

Carrie Gschwind gives an update to the building renovation plans. She says due to the current HVAC system layout, the cost for the project has increased by 20%-25%. The health department is looking into using grant funds to help with the cost increase.

Dr. Stamp goes over a draft for the Porter County Health Officer position. She tells the board to make adjustments as needed to the job description. Dr. Stamp goes on to make mention of January vital records data.

Before public comment, Board President, Dr. Boxum, had to leave the meeting. Vice President Dr. Fleming assumed control for the rest of the meeting.

Public Comment-

Dawn Miller asks about the YMCA funding and how the YMCA plans on making people take part in their programs.

Porter County resident speaks on wanting more research to be done when it comes to the Covid-19 vaccine. She speaks on a hearing that recently took place in Washington, D.C. about issues with the Covid-19 vaccine.

Porter County Councilman Andy Vasquez speaks on his experience with HVAC systems and says he will speak with building maintenance department to get more information on the issues.

Penny Cusic speaks about attending the ARPA fund meetings in 2023. She also makes mention to "Smith-Mundt Act" and how it plays a role in media.

Dr. Fleming calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Osan makes a motion to end the meeting. Dr. Fleming seconds the motion to end the meeting. The meeting is adjourned.

-Meeting Ends-