

Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday January 9, 2024

Commissioners Chambers

Abbreviated Minutes

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

Absent: Terry Wuletich

Attorney Hollenbeck calls the meeting to order and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attorney Hollenbeck opens the meeting with a joke and entertains a motion to approve the last Board of Health minutes from December, 2023. Dr. Boxum makes a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Lemmon seconds the motion. The motion passes with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Attorney Hollenbeck announces that the next Board of Health meeting will be on February 6 at 5:30 PM in the main Chambers of the Porter County Administration building.

Attorney Hollenbeck addresses line item #4 on the agenda (New Business-Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson). Attorney Hollenbeck entertains a motion to appoint a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the board of health for 2024. Dr. Fleming makes a motion to nominate Dr. Boxum as Chairperson of the board of health for 2024. Attorney Hollenbeck then entertains a motion to close the nomination process for Chairperson of the board. Kathy Lemmon makes a motion to close the nominations. Dr. Kimberly Brunt seconds the motion. The motion passes with a 6-0 unanimous vote, Dr. Boxum will serve as the Chairperson of the Porter County Board of Health for 2024.

Attorney Hollenbeck moves on to open the floor for nominations for a Vice Chairperson for 2024. Dr. Boxum makes a motion and nominates Dr. Fleming. Dr. Fleming accepts the nomination from Dr. Boxum. Dr. Chris Osan seconds the motion. With no other nominations, Attorney Hollenbeck entertains a motion to close nominations for Vice Chairperson. Kathy Lemmon makes a motion to close the nomination process, and in doing so, makes a motion to elect Dr. Fleming as Vice Chairperson of the board. Dr. Kim Brunt seconds the motion, and it passes with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Old Business- None to Report

Report of Board Attorney- Attorney Hollenbeck presents a contract for the new Deputy Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position to the board. Attorney Hollenbeck request Dr. Boxum to make a motion to approve the contract. Dr. Boxum entertains a motion to approve the contract. Robyn Lane makes a motion to approve the contract. Dr. Fleming seconds the motion. The motion passes with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Claims and Receipts- Dr. Boxum entertains a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Dr. Kimberly Brunt makes a motion to approve all claims and receipts. Kathy Lemmon seconds the motion, and it passes with a unanimous 6-0 vote.

Reports of Committees, Staff, Health Officer- Carrie Gschwind gives an update on Health First Indiana funding, and the plans for updates to the health department website.

Carrie goes on to introduce the health department's new director of nursing, Jessica Mahler, and the new Grants and Contracts Specialist, Kris Contrino.

Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the current HFI plans that were presented by Carrie Gschwind. Dr. Fleming makes a motion to approve the current HFI plans. Dr. Boxum seconds the motion and it passes with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Dr. Stamp announces her plans to retire from the Porter County Board of Health at some point in 2024.

Miscellaneous- Nothing to report.

Public Comment- Porter County Resident Dawn Miller

speaks. She requests the members of the board to speak louder so others can hear.

Penny Cusic speaks on the usage of the Porter County webpage. She says it's important for people to attend these meetings to get information to share with others.

Porter County Resident speaks on wanting more research to be done when it comes to the Covid-19 vaccine. She says she's like to board of health to have more input from other groups outside of the CDC and FDA.

Tim Qugh speaks on the meaning of the "Pledge of Allegiance". He speaks on American being a Republic and not a Democracy.

Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Fleming makes a motion to end the meeting. Robyn Lane seconds the motion to end the meeting. The meeting is adjourned with a unanimous 6-0 vote.

-Meeting Ends-