**Porter County Board of Health**

Tuesday August 3, 2021

Room 102A

**In Attendance:** Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Chairman Martin Moeller, Health Officer Dr. Maria Stamp, Dr. Derek Gasper, Kathy Lemmon, and Terry Wuletich, Donna Werner, Dr. Patrick Fleming and Suzanne Phelps.

Chairman Moeller called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Derek Gasper made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2021 meeting, seconded by Terry Wuletich. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Announcements:**

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2021.

**New Business:**

2022 Budget – we are submitting the same budget as last year. The only change was to take money from Rebinding Records and moving it to other rentals. The state has asked us to store the pallets of PPE due to the possibility of needing it again in the future. Donna Werner made a motion to submit the budget to the County Council for approval. Seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All in favor. Motion carries.

Kathy Lemmon made a motion to accept the claims and receipts for May & June 2021. Motion seconded by Dr. Patrick Fleming. All in favor. Motion carries.

Jed Stockton provided an update on all that he has done. Jed is now the administrator on our Facebook page. He has also started YouTube, Instagram and Twitter accounts. Looking at TikTok also. Our Facebook views went up 19.9% over last month. The top three notices we posted were the songbird notice, the vaccinations at NEO in Portage and the video of the Food Inspectors at the Porter County Fair. A lot of comments on the video – they do not know what our food inspectors do. Videos do seem to catch more attention.

Jed is here to promote the health department and our services. Website currently has everything lumped together. Would like to highlight the services we offer. Would like to include frequently asked questions and videos of the health department. Would like to get word out on Fluoride treatments for children.

**COVID 19 update:**

After our celebration in July where we felt that COVID was going away, but it is back. Over half of our population if fully vaccinated. Almost 60% of those 12 & up are fully vaccinated. If the vaccine continues to work against the variants. Our numbers are climbing slowly. We are one of the best counties in Indiana as far as rate of COVID. A higher vaccination rate is part of the reason we are holding our own right now. CDC states that areas with high rates of transmission should wear masks even if you are vaccinated. The CDC scale is narrower than the State scale by about half. According to the state metric, we are still in blue. We would like CDC to elaborate on their data and why more restrictive. Looking at daily totals and hospital numbers. Dr. Stamp is withholding decisions until more information is received. We also are constrained by the new law that was passed, and can only make recommendations. We are working with the Mayor of Portage to use Voters van to set up mobile vaccine sites in the city.

A motion to adjourn made by Dr. Patrick Fleming and seconded by Kathy Lemmon. All were in favor. Motion carried.