Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday January 7, 2020

Room 102A

**In Attendance:** Chairman Martin Moeller, Health Officer Dr. Maria Stamp, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Derek Gasper, Donna Werner, Elizabeth Forbes, Suzanne Phelps, Dr. Patrick Fleming and Letty Zepeda.

**Not in Attendance:** Kathy Lemmon

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

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting was made by Elizabeth Forbes and seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2020.

**New Business:**

**Septic Appeal** for lot 7 Stonebridge Subdivision for Bruce Built Construction. Bruce Young is the developer. Mary Evett spoke to the board regarding the appeal due to lot size requirements for usable suitable soil. The developer placed fill on the front portion of a number of the lots in the roadway area. They are handling each lot separately as they request a septic permit. Lot size requirement is 30,000 square feet. Mary inspected site on 9/17/19 and noticed substantial fill of about 2 feet near front of lot. The area on the lot that meets requirements is 28,787 with 1,213 that has fill. John McQuestion did a soil test on the filled area – there was up to 27 inches of fill & 12 to 13 inches of compaction. This area is not suitable for septic. Site plan was provided. The plan does meet our requirements for a 5 bedroom home. The septic will not be in a disturbed area. Site has sandy soil. There will be 1 or 2 additional lots that may require variance. A few others will need remediation in order to comply. John is working with the Developer. Approximately 50 lots in subdivision but only a few have issues.

A motion to approve was made by Elizabeth Forbes and seconded by Dr. Derek Gasper. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Veterans:** Dave discussed a previous issue that was brought up in May 2010. There is an ancient statute that veterans should be exempt from our legal fees. We found at that time that it was not the case.

This was brought up again on November 2019. Dave will seek the assistance from the State Attorney General’s office with Board approval. There is no charge to have this reviewed. He will ask for clarification of what fees should be waived.

A motion to approve was made by Donna Werner and seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**HealthSpace** – we are still working with vendor on implementing the Environmental division. IT is also upgrading the department to Windows 10.

**Vital Records:** The state hopes to have a new system in place for Death Certificates by the end of 2020. Birth Certificates will follow in 2021. We haven’t been given any details on dates or how they plan to roll the new program out as of this time.

**502 Union St:** situation is strictly in the hands of Valparaiso due to structural issues. We have released the property due to the infestation, but city of Valparaiso Building has to release before it can be occupied.

**Porter Starke** has come back again to ask for an MOU for a clinic they are opening in Hebron. This was reviewed previously and we had some concerns on the contract. At the April meeting they advised that they didn’t need the MOU. The contract looks the same, but Dave will review and we can discuss at the February meeting.

Approval needed for claims for October, November and December. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Patrick Fleming and seconded by Donna Werner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sheila Paul did provide information on the fee structure for Foods for nonprofits. The Board of Commissioners has to approve any ordinances on the fee structure. The Board of Health would have to recommend any changes to the Commissioners. The fee is currently $20.00 per day for each event. If fee is waived the cost for the Inspectors would be paid by the tax payer.

Dr. Stamp attended the Health Department symposium in October held in Indianapolis. Dr. Stamp presented an “open” invitation to the Board members, if anyone is interested in attending. She stated that the State Board of Health Representatives always gives a speech. She further stated that ISDH has developed a Vape Free Indiana presentation; New quit line for Vaping – ditchjuul .com or phone 1-800-quit-now for ages 13 & up. Indiana is said to be higher than the national average. The federal age for tobacco has gone to 21. There is also a ban on the sweet flavors that kids would like, but it doesn’t apply to the large batch supplies.

Dr. Stamp has given four talks with the Porter County Substance Abuse Council on opiates. Middle school is the target audience. Nurses made a presentation to the Kiwanis Club. Dr. Stamp will be talking to Duneland Rotary next week.

Motion to adjourn made by Donna Werner and seconded by Suzanne Phelps. All were in favor. Motion carried.