**Porter County Board of Health**

Tuesday June 1, 2021

Room 102A

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

**Not in Attendance:** Donna Werner, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Suzanne Phelps.

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

Terry Wuletich made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting, seconded by Dr. Derek Gasper. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Announcements:**

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2021.

**New Business:**

Dave Hollenbeck has written up new contract for Dr. Young for two years. The contract, except for the dates is the same as the prior contract. Dr. Young works with our TB clinic. We have a clinic every 8 weeks to work with TB patients. The nurses work with patients daily. Kathy Lemmon made a motion to renew Dr. Young’s medical consulting contract. Seconded by Dr. Derek Gasper. All in favor. Motion carries.

We went in front of the Porter County Council on the Communications Coordinator position. We relied heavily on Curt Ellis during the pandemic. The Commissioners have advised that he cannot continue to handle the Health Department, as he is getting busier with other county venues opening up. We knew that a full time position would be hard so we asked for a part time position. It is better to start as part time and see what our needs are. The Council did approve a part time employee and the position was posted to the website and Indeed last week.

**COVID 19 update:**

We are still giving vaccines at Expo Center and in Portage through 6/30/21. We have had a significant drop in appointments. We will continue to vaccinate within the Health Department offices. Case numbers are dropping. We still have some patients hospitalized, but it is dropping also. Almost fifty percent of eligible citizens have received at least one vaccine. Thirty-five percent of Porter County residents are fully vaccinated. Nurses have been going to the schools and to the port of Indiana doing vaccines. This would be a great story for the newspapers and our Facebook page.

Testing: Northshore has sold the building that Optum is using in Portage. They have started moving out today. State ended their contract as of the end of May. Expo will be testing thru the end of June.

**Attorney update:**

The Indiana State General Assembly decided the Governor was not doing a good enough job with COVID. Senate bill five became senate-enrolled act five. The Governor vetoed it and the legislative came back for one day to override the veto.

This is being driven by businesses and those that feel that rights are being affected. This has placed the Board of County Commissioners in each county in an adjudication role so they can overrule decisions made by the Health Officer. This only applies to a Public Health Emergency for rules that are different from what the Governor declares.

A motion to accept claims and receipts for April was made by Kathy Lemmon. Seconded by Dr. Derek Gasper. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Emergency Preparedness:**

Addition employees will be getting GETZ card that provides priority for telephone systems in the event of an emergency.

We are working on a PA Grant with help from the Auditors office. Emergency Preparedness contract is up at the end of the month.

We would like to thank both Scott Arnold at Valpo Fire and Dan Kodichek at Portage Fire have been handling our Homebound Hoosiers.

A motion to adjourn made by Kathy Lemmon and seconded by Terry Wuletich. All were in favor. Motion carried.