**Porter County Board of Health**

Tuesday June 7, 2022

Room 102A

**In Attendance:** Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Terry Wuletich, Dr. Patrick Fleming Dr. Derek Gasper, Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon and Suzanne Phelps

Absent: Dr. Maria Stamp, Martin Moeller

Suzanne Phelps called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Derek Gasper made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2022 meeting, seconded by Dr. Linda Boxum. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Announcements:**

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 19, 2022.

**New Business:**

Septic appeal for 134 S. State Rd. 2. The lot is .95 acre and the owner has a design for a mound system. There is 100 percent move over area available with perimeter drain. There are no concerns and staff recommend approval. The move over area will be recorded so no additional structures will be built. Dr. Patrick Fleming made a motion to approve the appeal. Seconded by Kathy Lemmon. All were in favor. Motion carries.

Septic appeal for 164 NW Hills Dr. A few months ago, Dan reported on this location. Home is located in the West Hills Subdivision. The property failed the septic inspection. We asked for soil borings. It has 30 inches of fill over muck. House is vacant and cannot be sold due to septic system issues. The property owners’ son is hoping to sell the property to help cover the cost of assisted living facility. Proposing a new septic tank with an aerobic treatment unit to rejuvenate the current septic field. We have approved this type of system a few times in the past and it has worked to rejuvenate the system. Dave Ortell with IDOH has been involved and agrees that this type of system is fine as long as a new septic tank is installed as well. Aerobic treatment unit has a filter and a blower that will clean the wastewater before it goes into the field. Also oxygenates the system to help break down bacteria in the existing field allowing it to function better. They will need a yearly operation and maintenance agreement with the company that installs it going back quarterly and submit a report to both IDOH the Health Department showing that they are maintaining the system. This is the only option to sell the house without hooking it up to sewer. This has to disclose at point of sale advising that they need yearly maintenance. The property owner will pay for the cost of the install. Mary Evett from Soil Solutions did voice some concerns, but due to lack of other options available, the staff recommends approval. We have three or four other systems that have been installed in Porter County and they have worked to rejuvenate the system. Property is fill over muck. The lot is approximately a half acre. There are many issues in this subdivision. We would like to get the subdivision put on sewer. There are fifty to seventy homes in the subdivision. The city does not have the funding to run sewer. Lake County is using the Army Corp of Engineers to install sewer into some areas. Grant money is being used to cover half of the cost. A signed release hold harmless will be recorded on the property. Dr. Fleming made a motion to accept the appeal. Seconded by Terry Wuletich. All in favor. Motion carries.

Local Health Department Survey was completed and submitted to the state.

The contract with CureMD our new EMR software has been signed.

Discussion on extended hours and four-day work week. The County is concerned about other departments wanting to adjust their schedule. The county is currently doing a wage study. We would keep track of appointments and would tweak hours and adjust where needed. We will continue to explore this further.

Dave Hollenbeck had a few matters that need attention. We discussed the need to evaluate and look at a comprehensive look at fees that we charge for our services. We need to be self-funded and should charge for services based on the cost to the department.

John Pisowicz is a contract employee, whose contract has been renewed every year. The state provides the funding to pay him. The state has committed to fund through June of 2025. Dave would like to offer a three-year contract to John as long as the state continues to fund this. Motion for Dave to work with John on a three-year agreement made by Dr. Linda Boxum. Seconded by Dr. Patrick Fleming. All in favor. Motion carries.

Dave and Dan will be revisiting a point of sale ordinance for homes on septic requiring inspection on septic systems prior to the sale of the house. Any septic issues could be addressed at time of sale rather than new homeowner finding issues out later that there were issues that were not disclosed. Homes with septic issues that are put up for sale or foreclosed on. We would like a disclosure that would show on title work. IOWPA certified inspectors would have to do the inspections and we would review all inspections. Either the buyer or seller would have to pay for the cost of the inspection. LaPorte County passed an ordinance on this several years ago, so realtors have started to ask for this in Porter County also.

Motion to approve the claims and receipts for March and April was made by Dr. Derek Gasper. Seconded by Terry Wuletich. All were in favor. Motion carries.

Our new Health Department Administrator is Sheila Paul. During the interview process, several internal candidates could have done the job as well. Dave stated Sheila was by far the best, but we are blessed to have great staff in the Health Department. Carrie Gschwind will be the new Foods Director.

With the school liaison grant our nurses developed great relationships with the schools and they have decided to take on the extra responsibilities. There are 69 schools in Porter County. All have been contacted and sent a needs assessment. We received a response from all but seven schools. Those that did not reply were private schools, but we reached out a few times to let them know we were available. The RN’s made personal visits to each school and went over the assessment needs with the school nurses. They also went over the communicable disease plan and how to report to the HD and what else PHN can give them. SELF needs additional PPE so we provided them with disposable gowns. Some schools wanted information on puberty to provide to students. Offered to help with vision screenings. Offered vaccine clinics at the school. Willowcreek Middle School gave us 3 days to put together a clinic during Middle School orientation. We received ten consent forms but when staff arrived, we had thirty people waiting to get vaccines.

We received 25,588 rapid antigen tests. They arrived on 12 pallets that could not fit through any doors due to the size. Staff jumped in to empty the pallets and the tests are stored in 102. During Earth day at the Expo, we gave out twenty cases.

An email sent to all restaurants offering tests. We will contact the schools prior to school starting to offer tests also.

The health department has purchased three vehicles. We thought it would be nice to wrap the vehicle. We would like the board’s approval on getting a wrap. Jed was able to find a sponsor NITCO. They would to add something on the back gate of the vehicle. Jed is starting HELP videos for our social media. Nurses will be discussing several topics.

All Board of Health members will be getting GETS cards. This allows you to break through phone lines in the event of a disaster.

We will be receiving 100,000 free Soy Bean crayons from the Indiana Soy Bean Council. We will be replacing lollipops with crayons for children’s immunizations.

A motion to adjourn made by Kathy Lemmon and seconded by Dr. Derek Gasper. All were in favor. Motion carries.