Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday October 1, 2019

Room 102A

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

**Not in Attendance:** Dr. Patrick Fleming

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

A motion to accept the minutes of the August 6, 2019 meeting was made by Kathy Lemmon and seconded by Donna Werner. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2019.

**New Business:**

**Septic Appeal** for two lots for Brian Lewandowski from A1 Construction.

The first lot is located at Richards Add W231.05 block 1 & E 39.95 Vac Center St. Lot is .97 of an acre.

The owner has planned on installing a Presby system. Mr. Boyd stated that the County has seen these types of systems being installed commencing in 2013. Presby systems consist of 12” pipes, wrapped in a fabric and green mesh. The mesh serves to capture the bacteria which settle into the fabric creating a biomat. The same sand that is used in a mound system – can be elevated or used as subsurface. The systems are newer and smaller. The systems require venting. The monitoring well serves to check the system, to verify the system is working well. There is also room on the property for a second system, should the first system fail. Two to four inspections will be conducted as the system is being installed. Per Mr. Boyd, most systems fail, eventually and will require replacement. Observed on site was clay soil with city water. Also observed were storm and perimeter drains on the property.

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

The second lot is located at Gilbertville block 11 – E ½ vac Adams STDR4 71 P 47. Lot is .60 of an acre. Mr. Lewandowski’s intent is to build a 1 bedroom home on the lot. He also stated that if this lot is approved to build on, it will be donated to the Chesterton Building trades to use for High School programs. He also stated no other additional structures would be built on said property. He stated his plan is to also use a Presby system, but if need be, can fit two septic systems on the property. There are currently, storm and perimeter drains on the property. Lot consists of clay soil on flat land. Per Mr. Boyd, the lot size criteria minimum is 1 acre and repairs on a small system can be a problem, when getting the old system out, to install the new system. Lot is said to have city water. Current plan is to build as one bedroom, but additional bedrooms can be added. Per Mr. Lewandowski, technology is changing. Per Mr. Boyd, currently, there aren’t any presby systems that have failed.

A motion to deny Mr. Lewandowski’s request was made by Donna Werner and seconded by Elizabeth Forbes and all were in favor. Motion carried.

**Legal Service Agreement:** A request to renew the contract and increase the salary for Attorney Dave Hollenbeck was brought into discussion. The request is for looking at increasing his salary for the 2020 budget, a salary that has remained the same since 2010. The increase would be for contractual as well as the hourly fee. Recommendation was also made to change commencement of the contract date, so it aligns with the budget schedule. Dave has been attorney for the Health Department since 1976 and has done a great job!

Motion to accept the agreement was proposed by Suzanne Phelps and seconded by Kathy Lemmon. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**MSA CRI** – Letty introduced Jill Monk as the District 1 MSA/CRI representative. Jill is responsible for overseeing District 1 which encompasses Porter, La Porte, Jasper, and Newton counties along with the cities of East Chicago & Gary. She will be overseeing the work that is being done by the emergency preparedness coordinators. Porter County is serving as the fiscal agent. Jill was previously the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the City of East Chicago. She served there for five years. Six applications were received for the position of MSA/CRI. Applications were reviewed and three were selected to interview. Representatives of the LHD voted on Jill Monk. The Porter County Health Department has agreed to be the fiscal agent for one year and will decide after the year if we want to continue.

**Old Business:**

**Health Space** – The Health Department has received approval from the County Council to transfer funds for the purchase of a new program that will work in coordination with Windows 10. We anticipate on commencing testing on 10/8/19. Health Space representatives will be coming to the Health Department for two days for training and will also work with Vital Records on getting them set up for the next phase. Health Department hopes on going live on 11/4/19.

**Budget** - Budget has been approved by the County Council. Staff at the Health Department has worked diligently to maintain the budget, making cuts where necessary. One foods inspector transferred over to environmental, leaving a vacant position in foods. Position has been posted.

**Environmental:**

**502 Union St** – City of Valparaiso has assumed responsibility for the building. Health Department submitted an “Order to Vacate” due to the infestation of bedbugs and cockroaches. United Way worked with the families of 502 Union Street to provide them with short term living arrangements. The Health Department will be working with the Trustees Office, should we encounter another similar situation. Per Attorney Hollenbeck, a buyer has presented himself, interested in buying the building. The building is said to have structural issues that the City of Valparaiso is concerned about. At this time, the Health Department has fulfilled its obligation and before it is released from being condemned, it will need to be re-inspected.

**Chemical Spill with ArcelorMittal**: The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is the government agency overseeing the spill.

**Youngjohn property:** The property has been cleared, per Tony Moore’s inspection. Mr. Youngjohn is stated to move to Arizona. This case is now closed.

**Foods:** The Foods Division is in the process of conducting the second round of interviews to fill their vacant position. Carrie Grswind assumed the position vacated by Kelly Fankhauser and Emery Kostelnik was hired as part time Food Inspector. Emery does not have a Bachelor’s Degree in the Sciences as required to be a full time food inspector but has attended culinary school. He has also worked as part time instructor at Ivy Tech College and has experience in the food industry. Per Sheila, he is doing an excellent job.

Sheila reported that the foods division is in full swing of temporary events. There are two to five events every weekend. She stated that she is having a hard time scheduling staff to cover all the events held after hours and on weekends and still have them report during the week. Sheila anticipates that once a new person is added, it will relieve some of the pressure.

All foods staff attended Temporary seminar – World Cultural Festival. Sheila stated that not all vendors are up on current regulations; therefore they had to work with the Coordinator to help set up. The response was good. No one was shut down or instructed to leave the event.

Foods staff attended IEHA conference. They learned a lot about the different departments on how they work together.

**Nursing:** Nursing has been busy with back to school immunizations. Some of the nurses participated in the Popcorn Fest Parade. Emily Guilliani designed customs worn by the nurses at the parade. Nurses gave away magnets that included the Health Departments contact information along with candy. Nurses went to the schools to provide TB tests for the students and also to Schultz Lewis. Nurses are starting the Flu campaign and will set up clinics for county employees to receive the vaccine. Nurses also provided flu vaccines to employees at Steel Technologies located in Portage.

The American Red Cross worked in conjunction with the Porter County Health Department for the purpose of a blood drive. Representatives of the American Red Cross stated they were happy with the turnout. There were 21 donors.

The nurses held their annual retreat at Sunset Hill Farm. John Pisowiscz, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator provided a presentation on the new designer drugs and Todd Lewis talked about LGBTA population and how to talk to them without making them feel uncomfortable. Michelle Volk spoke about the drug threat assessment and drugs that are coming across our borders.

**Health Department van:** A calendar for the signing out of the van has been placed on the partition in the hall way by the environmental division’s area. All health department employees are required to sign out the van when traveling, especially on long trips. The Commissioners are currently looking at leasing vehicles from Enterprise to be used by Porter County staff when traveling long trips. It is the hope that this will help cut costs on paying out for mileage.

**Retreat:** Letty has approved requested that the Foods and Environmental Division participate in a retreat, inviting LaPorte County Health Department staff as guests. It is Porter County Health Department’s goal to build a bridge among other health departments in the State of Indiana. At this time, Vital Records and the Nursing secretaries will be holding a retreat at Sunset Hill and Foods and Environmental working with La Porte County will be holding a separate retreat, also at Sunset Hill.

**Newsletter:** To help promote the Health Department, the idea of creating a “Newsletter” featuring all the divisions is in the works. The Newsletter will help inform the public on all the services the health department provides, as well as help build a relationship with the citizens of Porter County.

Dr. Stamp – thanked Dave for his 43 years of service to the Health Department. His services are greatly appreciated by all.

Dr. Stamp also commented on the great ideas shared by staff of the health department in making attempts to build a cohesive team.

Dr. Stamp will be speaking at two rotary meetings and has started working with the Porter County Substance Abuse Council. She will be speaking and presenting on the overdose lifeline that is geared to Middle School students and can be done, one class at a time. She will also be doing an epidemiology presentation to her daughter’s fifth grade class.

A motion to approve Claims and Receipts was made by Kathy Lemmon and seconded by Elizabeth Forbes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was requested by Suzanne Phelps and seconded by Kathy Lemmon. All were in favor. Motion carried.