

Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday October 3, 2023

Commissioners Chambers

Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Maria Stamp, , Terry Wuletich, Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon, Robyn Lanel, Dr. Chris Osan

Absent: Dr. Patrick Fleming

Dr. Boxum calls the meeting to order and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Boxum: Introduces Dr. Chris Osan as the newest Porter County Board of Health member and asks him to speak.

Dr. Chris Osan: He introduces himself and says he is a family medicine physician from Valpo. Dr. Osan practices for Saint. Mary's off of 549 Highway. Dr. Osan and his wife have been practicing medicine in Valpo for the past six years.

Dr. Boxum moves to the next topic on the agenda, to approve minutes from August and September's Special meeting. Dr. Boxum mentions that part of the video from the August meeting were cut off due to a technical issue. She makes a motion to approve these minutes with the information about the public comment section included as an amendment.

Kathy Lemmon brings up the spelling of Steve Langer's name from a previous meeting that needs to be corrected.

A motion was voted on to approve the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously 5-0.

For announcements, Dr. Boxum says the next board meeting is tentatively set for November 14.

New Business- Dr. Boxum says on September 21, she was notified from the Commissioner's Office that Dr. Michael resigned from his position on the Porter County Board of Health. This means that the board is back in the position of having to submit five names to the Commissioners to fill the vacancy on the board. The same names that were submitted for the vacancy left by Jessica Jepsen will be resubmitted to fill Dr. Michael's seat.

Dr. Derek Gasper, DO- Family Physician, 4-year previous BOH member

Dr. Dianna Brogan, MD- Pediatric Physician

Dr. Kim Brunt, PhD- Clinical Psychologist, Associate Professor, and Research Specialist

Captain Tom Gooding- Airline Pilot, retired Navy

Martin Moeller- Funeral Director, 16-year previous BOH member

Dr. Boxum requests a motion to approve the list of five candidates to submit to the Commissioners office. The motion was passed 5-0.

Dave Hollenbeck called John Pisowicz to the front to speak about how his position is funded by a grant that comes from the state, and how the department would like to allocate those funds for a new Deputy Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to fill in while John is gone.

John Pisowicz introduces himself to Dr. Osan and explains his role with the Porter County Health Department, his role with the Navy and his role as a flight nurse. John brings up the point that if he is deployed, the county will need someone to step in for emergency preparedness situation. This position would be funded with money from the state and the CDC. The role would cover the two days a week that John does not work and be on-call 24 hours for emergencies.

Dr. Boxum makes a motion to approve the deputy emergency preparedness coordinator position. The motion passes with a 5-0 vote.

Dan Boyd speaks to the board about his role as Environmental Director. He speaks on how recently passed legislation has had a negative effect on the department's ability to conduct inspections. New regulations say local ordinances can't be stricter than state regulation.

Dave Hollenbeck speaks on the unique land in our area and how this new legislation does not fit well with the needs of Porter County.

Dan Boyd has been working on an ordinance that works best for Porter County.

Carrie Gschwind gives a presentation on Health First Indiana updated. She speaks on the Fetal Infant Mortality Review teams (FIMR) and the public health needs assessment.

Dr. Stamp gives a presentation on frequently asked questions from the public.

Dr. Boxum invites Deb Silvert to give her presentation to the board. She presents packets of information to the board. She talks about the studies she provided the board from the WHO.

Dr. Boxum opens the meeting for public comment.

Jon Stamp from Valparaiso opens public comment. He speaks about his experience as Dr. Stamp's husband and the hard work Dr. Stamp has put in over the years.

Dawn speaks during public comment. She asks about masks mandates and claims the health department shut down local businesses during the Covid pandemic. Dr. Stamp says the health department did not have authority to shut down businesses.

Greg Simms from Valparaiso speaks. He says he is excited about the CARE coordinator position. He talks about the mobile clinic being present at the ALZ Walk that past weekend and how the public really enjoyed seeing the unit in action.

Tim Qugh from Porter speaks. He says republicans and democrats are stupid. He talks about the bible. He talks about the Covid-19 vaccines.

Michael Silvert of Porter County speaks. He speaks on the negative affects of vaccines from a study.

Anna Hearn of Valparaiso speaks. She thanks the board for their time and effort during the Covid pandemic. She says it was a choice to receive or not receive the vaccines.

Debby Frey from Valparaiso speaks. She says she is grateful for what has been done so far. She says she hopes Covid is behind us. And she hopes everyone can move forward.

Jim Jepsen of Valparaiso speaks. He says there needs to be more capable members on the board of health. He says the board needs to stay more current.

Andy Vasquez speaks to the board. He says choice is important. He explains the difference between power and authorities. He talks about his health status and the choices his doctor gave him.

Meeting adjourned.