

Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday December 5, 2023

Commissioners Chambers

Abbreviated Minutes

In Attendance: Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Dr. Maria Stamp, Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon, Robyn Lane, Dr. Chris Osan, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Dr. Kim Brunt

Absent: Terry Wuletich

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

Dr. Boxum opens the meeting and entertains a motion to approve the last Board of Health minutes from November. Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Osan makes a motion to approve and Dr. Brunt seconds the motion. The motion passes with a 5-0 unanimous vote. Dr. Fleming was not present during this vote and Terry Wuletich did not attend this meeting.

Dr. Boxum announces that the next meeting will be held on January 9th.

New Business: Carrie Gschwind introduces Jan Pyrce, the founder of Pyrce Group. Jan presents the Porter County Public Health Needs Assessment report. This assessment has been taking place since August of 2023.

Dan gives an update on a property and homeowner that the environmental division has been working with. The property owner had been issued a permit for a septic repair on a home remodel, however, after the repair was complete, the home was demolished and a new home built. The septic repair did not meet the state code for new construction septic, requiring the homeowner to come before the Board seeking a variance for final septic approval.

Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the septic variance. Dr. Fleming makes the motion to approve the motion. Dr. Osan then seconds the motion almost simultaneously. The motion is passed with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Dr. Boxum announces that Attorney Dave Hollenbeck's contract is up for renewal. A new annual contract was presented to the board for approval. Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to approve the new annual contract. Dr. Fleming makes a motion. Dr. Osan seconds the motion. The motion passes with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Old Business: None to report.

Report of Board Attorney: No report this month.

Claims and Receipts: Robyn Lane makes a motion to approve the claims and receipts. Dr. Brunt seconds the motion. The motion was passed with a 6-0 unanimous vote.

Reports of Committee, Staff and Health Officer: Carrie Gschwind says the health department will attend the next Commissioners meeting on December 12 to give an update on the results of the public needs assessment. Carrie introduces Carrie Honeycutt, the new CARE Coordinator for the Porter County Health Department. Carrie also introduces Jeff Dees, the new Deputy Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Porter County Health Department.

Carrie makes mention of Connie Rudd's retirement plans, and invites the board to her going-away celebration. Carrie also mentions Tony Moore, Food inspector. He will be retiring in late December of 2023, but will work part-time under contract with the department, as needed.

Miscellaneous: Nothing to report.

Public Comment: Porter County Councilman Greg Simms presents Connie with an award and calls her up to speak. Connie expresses her gratitude and speaks about her time at the health department.

Jake Monhaut, President of the Portage Recovery Association, speaks about the efforts of the Portage Recovery Association. He talks about the Recovery Café and how anyone can visit the facility.

Dr. Boxum calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Brunt makes a motion to end the meeting. There were multiple, simultaneous seconds for the motion. Motion is passed unanimously and the meeting is closed.