

Porter County Board of Health

Tuesday, August 23, 2023

Room 102A

Abbreviated Minutes for Special Board of Health Meeting

In Attendance: Dr. Maria Stamp, Dr. Patrick Fleming, Jessica Jepsen, Terry Wuletich, Dr. Linda Boxum, Kathy Lemmon, Robyn Lane, Dr. Ronald Michael, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck,

Absent:

“Pledge of Allegiance”

Carrie Gschwind opens with showing the budget plan for 2024. She talks about “Health Fund 1159, nursing salaries are now fully coming out of this fund. Medical and dental were removed from this section.

Trust fund 1206 was mentioned. The goal with this fund is to spend it down to as close to zero as possible to close out the account.

Dr. Boxum proposes a motion to pass the county and state budget plans. Both county and state funds were approved unanimously.

Dr. Boxum brings up future meeting schedules for the remainder of 2023. The following dates were set, September 5, October 3, November 14, November 29 (Special Meeting), and December 5. The special session in November will take place at 6:00 p.m. while the normal meetings will be held at 5:30. All meeting will take place in the Main Chambers but is subject to change. The Pyrce Group will be at the Special Session in November.

Carrie Gschwind talks about the website additions for “HelpFirstIn”. The PCHD is working in conjunction with Sam Burgett, a social worker for the Valpo Sheriff's Office. In the future, the health department will sponsor \$9,300 for website maintenance costs. For the rest of 2023, the health department will supplement \$1,000 to get the website up and running.

Dr. Mentions John Pisowicz and his recent promotion to Commander in the U.S. Navy. Plans for a ceremony will be held on August 30 in the Main Chambers to honor John and his family.

During public comment, Dawn Miller from Valparaiso asks the board about mask mandates and if they would come back.

Noreen Leagon from 320 Recovery in Chesterton wants to partner with the PCHD. She gives information about their services and how they help people recover from substance abuse.

Deb Silver speaks to the board and presents a report to them. She requests to be on the agenda at the next meeting. The board votes to add her to the agenda for extended time. A vote of 6-1 was approved to have Deb Silver. Kathy Lemmon was the only no-vote.

Kelly Zykowski of Portage asks about masks.

“Lyna Veng?” of Portage presents a book report from Pfizer and talks about studies from the book.

Tim Ough of Porter does a demonstration with props and a laundry basket. He says he loves all people and will not take the Covid vaccine.

-End of Meeting-