

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

September 13, 2023,
4:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, 4th Floor and via Zoom
County City Building, South Bend, IN

Members Present:

John Linn, P.E.
Michelle Migliore, D.O.
Robert Hays, M.D.
Elizabeth Lindenman, M.D.
Ellen Reilander, Esq.
Jill Kaps VanBrouaene
Kristin Vincent, CNM

Members Absent:

None

Also Present:

Diana Purushotham, M.D.
Amy Ruppe
Jennifer S. Parcell
Brett Davis
Carolyn Smith
Robin Vida
Jodie Pairitz
Ericka Tijerina
Josiah Hartman
Katey Meyers
Ashley Helman - Zoom
Marcellus Lebbin, Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the St. Joseph County, Indiana Board of Health was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It is recommended the Board of Health members adopt the agenda for September 13, 2023.

Upon a motion by Ellen Reilander, Esq., being seconded by Robert Hays, M.D. and unanimously carried, the agenda for September 13, 2023 was adopted as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. It is recommended the Board of Health members approve the minutes of June 21, 2023.

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O., being seconded by Ellen Reilander, Esq. and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 21, 2023 regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health were approved.

2. It is recommended the Board of Health members approve the minutes of July 19, 2023.

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O., being seconded by Ellen Reilander, Esq. and unanimously carried, the minutes of July 19, 2023, regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health were approved.

3. It is recommended the Board of Health members approve the minutes of August 16, 2023.

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O., being seconded by Ellen Reilander, Esq. and unanimously carried, the minutes of August 16, 2023, regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Board of Health were approved.

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Linn stated he was able to attend the Health First Indiana meeting held at La Casa de Amistad last week.

Dr. Purushotham stated the next session will be held on Saturday, September 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Mishawaka.

V. HEALTH OFFICER PRESENTATION and REPORT

23-72 Discussion on August 2023 Health Officer's Report

Dr. Purushotham talked about the new Health Officer Report format, highlighted the number of food service inspections, the number of Social Needs Assessment's, Health First Indiana (HFI) and the REDCap survey.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNIT SPOTLIGHT:

Brett Davis gave a PowerPoint presentation, which is attached to these minutes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

23-73 Discussion and Vote – Addition of a Disease Investigation Specialist (DIS) – Nursing

A discussion was had regarding the addition of a Disease Investigation Specialist, the following motion was made:

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O, being seconded by Robert Hays, M.D. and unanimously carried, the additional Disease Investigation Specialist (DIS) – Nursing position was approved.

23-74 Discussion and Vote – Maternal and Infant Health Coordinator – job description and budget – HOPE

A discussion was had regarding Maternal and Infant Health Coordinator job description and budget, the following motion was made:

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O., being seconded by Ellen Reilander, Esq. and unanimously carried, the Maternal and Infant Health Coordinator (MIH) job description and budget were approved.

23-75 Discussion and Vote – St. Joseph County Health Department Personnel Policy change Section 800 Resignation/Retirement/Terminations

An amendment to the policy that was distributed to the Board of Health prior to the meeting was changed to read: “Employees voluntarily leaving the Department of Health must give at least 3 working days’ notice. The department head shall determine whether the employee may work out his/her notice. If an employee does not provide advance notice as required, the employee will be considered ineligible for re-hire”.

A discussion was had regarding the St. Joseph County Health Department Personnel Policy change Section 800 Resignation/Retirement/Terminations; the following motion was made:

Upon a motion by Ellen Reilander, Esq., being seconded by Robert Hays, M.D. and unanimously carried, Section 800 Resignation/Retirement/Terminations of the St. Joseph County Health Department Personnel manual was approved, as amended.

23-76 Discussion and Vote – 2024 Fee Schedule - Food Services

Temporary One Day Event Permit Fee (Increase)
Temporary Two to Three Day Event Permit Fee (Increase)
Temporary Four to Ten Day Event Permit Fee (Increase)
Temporary Annual Permit Fee (Increase)
Temporary Lost/Stolen/Destroyed Permit Fee (Increase)

A discussion was had regarding increased fees for 2024 for the Food Services Unit, the following motion was made:

Upon a motion by Robert Hays, M.D., being seconded by Jill Kaps VanBruaene and unanimously carried, the fees for Temporary Food Vendor Permits were approved for 2024.

23-77 Discussion and Vote – 2024 Fee Schedule – Vital Records Birth Certificate (Increase)

Correction/Amendment (Increase)
Death Certificate (Increase)
Genealogy (Increase)
Notary (Increase)
Paternity Affidavit upon Marriage/Legitimation (Increase)
Paternity Correction copy (Increase)
Paternity Affidavit copy (Increase)
Paternity Affidavit (Increase)
Home Birth Registration (New)

A discussion was had regarding the increased and new fee for 2024 for the Vital Records Unit, the following motion was made:

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O., being seconded by Robert Hays, M.D. and unanimously carried, the fees for Vital Records were approved for 2024.

VII. GRANT REQUESTS

There were no grant requests at this time.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

23-66 Discussion and Vote - County Code 51 - Sewage and Septic Systems Regulations (as amended)

(A five-minute break was taken at 5:50 p.m. to relocate the meeting to the 8th floor boardroom).

A thorough discussion was had regarding County Code 51, after discussion and approval of each section, the following motion was made:

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O., being seconded by Elizabeth Lindenman, M.D. and unanimously carried, County Code 51 – Sewage and Septic Systems Regulations were approved, as amended.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Limit)

x.

Cynthia Heckman-Davis residing at 125 Gemini Lane, Walkerton. Gave her list of grateful things the Department of Health is doing. Public Meet and Greet on HFI. Attended the one held at LaCasa. She liked the opportunity to talk with Department Managers and Dr. Purushotham. She completed the REDCAP QR survey. Having 279 people respond is a success. She is grateful for the Vector surveillance program, for the Department of Health advisories and recommendations. Doctor's and veterinarians use these advisories to be more vigilant for more cases of West Nile Virus. The St. Joseph County Department of Health website and Facebook pages have very current and accurate information about foodborne illness and cites appropriate links. School vaccinations and lead testing with information in Spanish and English. I was not aware of the Recover Michiana Fest this Saturday at Howard Park but was glad to know of this

event. She also gave her list of expectations. Expects to hear more about the six-month contract with Force 5. This is a grant funded study which I think will be ending in December if I remember correctly. What are the best ways for Health information to reach the public. I will be very interested in this. You are all doing a great job.

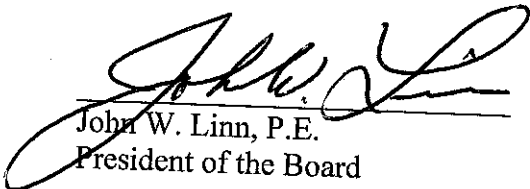
Ken Smith residing at 536 South Sunnyside, South Bend. Clarifying questions; 1,500 property transfers, a third of which had faulty septic systems of one kind or another. Those properties are of a certain age so I guess we could do a statistical analysis of properties of a certain age in the county have a 1/3 chance of being faulty. He thanked the Board and Department for the educational process such as we saw today.


XI. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

October 18, 2023 – 4:30 p.m. - Council Chambers, 4th Floor County City Building.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Michelle Migliore, D.O., being seconded by Ellen Reilander, Esq. and unanimously carried, the regular meeting of the St. Joseph County, Indiana Board of Health was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


John W. Linn, P.E.
President of the Board


Diana Purushotham, M.D.
Secretary of the Board

Full Zoom recording of this meeting can be found at:
<https://www.in.gov/localhealth/stjosephcounty/board-of-health/meeting-information/#September>



St. Joseph County Department of Health: Environmental Health Unit

MARK ESPICH, DIRECTOR

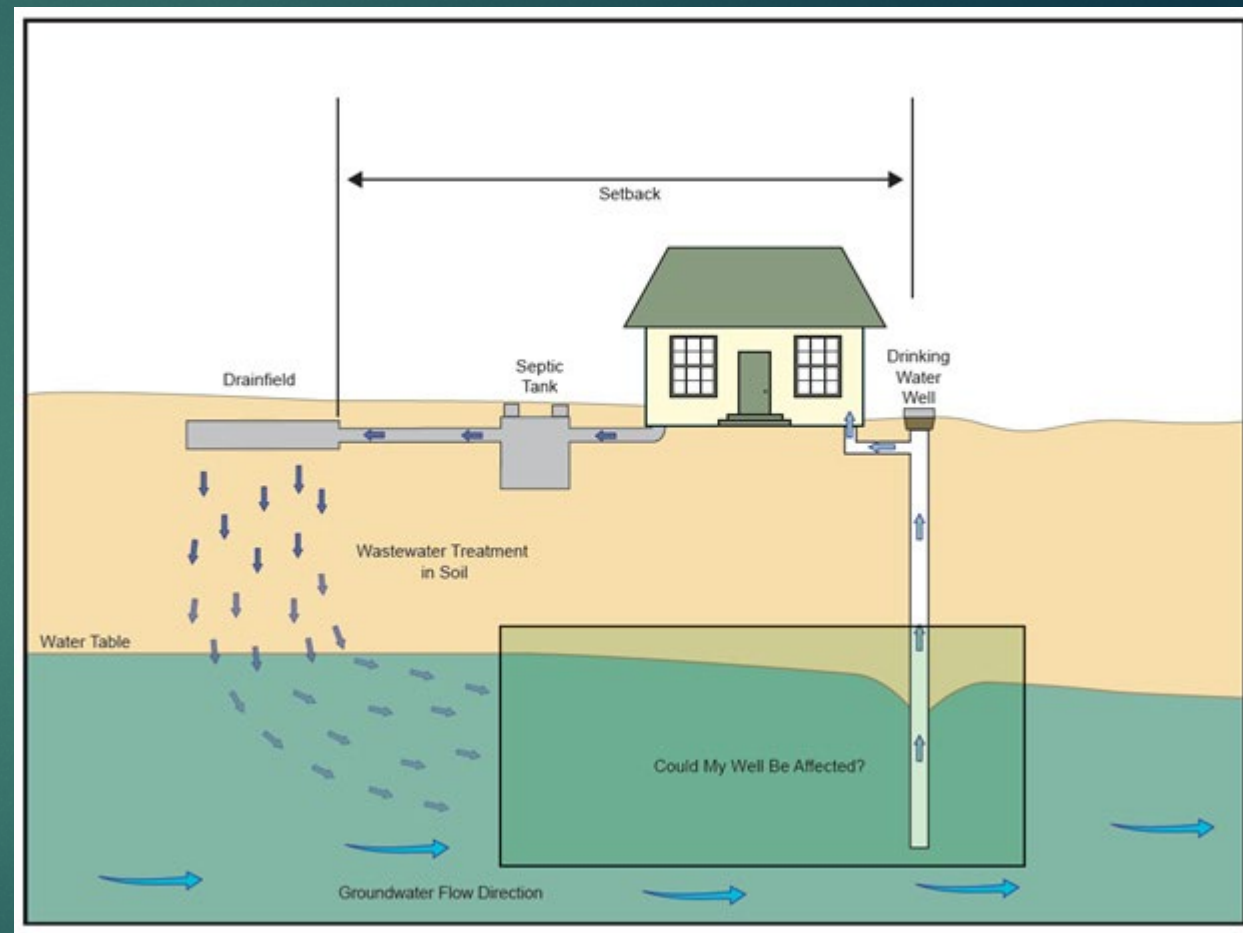
BRETT DAVIS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Scope of Work

- ▶ When an issue arises and nobody knows how to handle it, it goes to Environmental Health.
- ▶ Combined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), Healthy Homes, Air Quality (Burning), Massage establishments, Tattoo and Piercing establishments, Vector Control (Mosquitoes, rodents, etc.), Property Transfers, Septic Systems, Solid Waste Disposal, Surface Water and Groundwater protection, Well Drilling, Wellhead Protection, and Subdivision and Rezoning reviews all fall under the purview of Environmental Health

On-Site Sewage (Septic) Systems

- ▶ Haphazard development, favorable soils for sewage disposal, and reluctance to expand sewers have led to an incredible amount of septic systems in St. Joseph County
- ▶ 4706 septic permits issued in the past 10 years

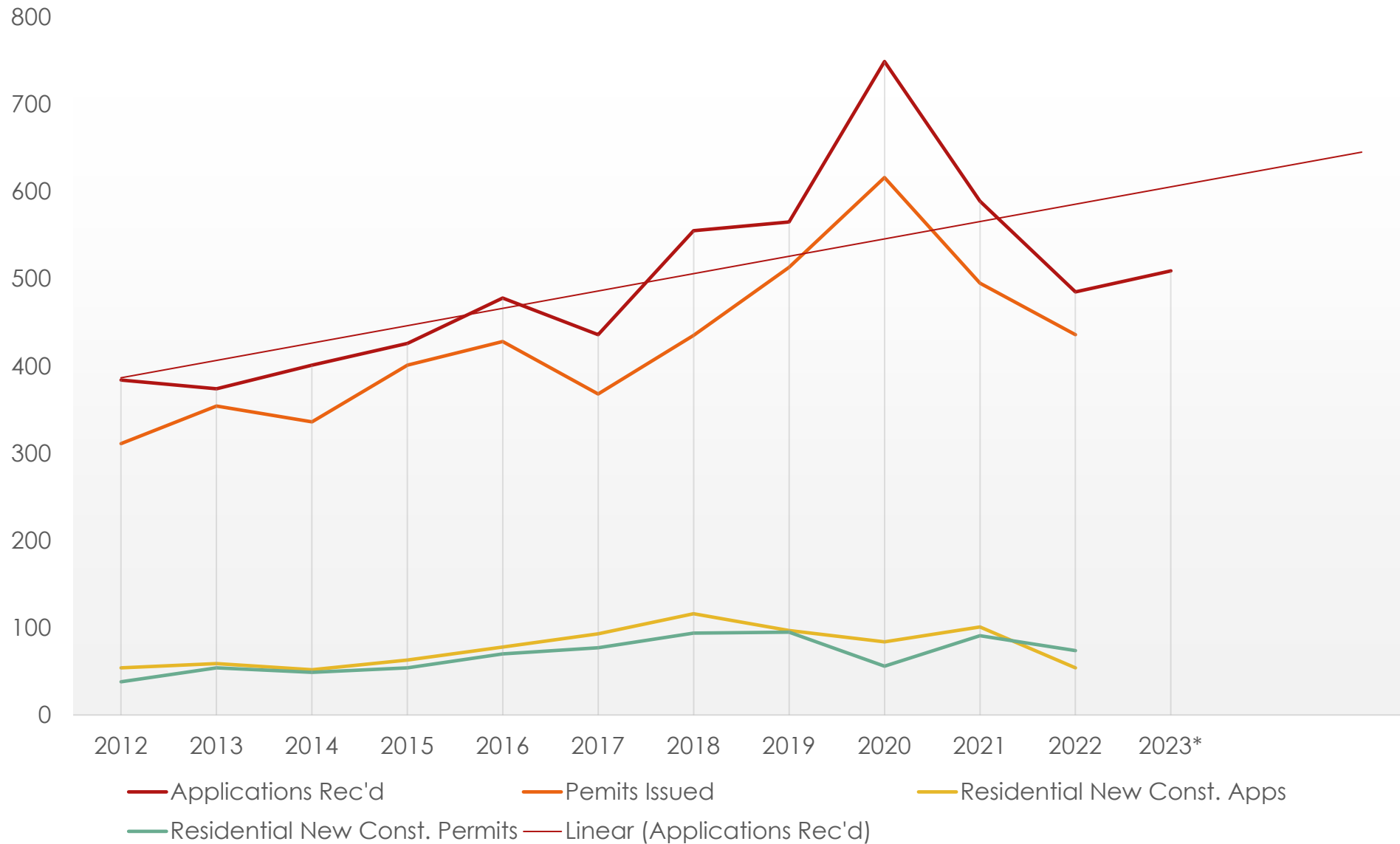


Source: EPA

Scope of Septics in St. Joseph County

- ▶ As of the 2010 Census, Granger had 9,000 septic systems serving 30,000 people. This has greatly increased.
- ▶ Granger residents and businesses remove approximately 1 billion gallons of water from the aquifer annually, use it where it becomes contaminated, and then discharge 1 billion gallons of effluent back into the aquifer. This recycling process continually increases the concentration of contaminants in the groundwater.
- ▶ Approximately 50,000 septic systems county wide
 - ▶ Four septic EHSes
 - ▶ Fully staffed as of last week for the first time since June 2022

Septic Permits since 2012



Note: Based on trends over the past several years, we can expect more than 500 applications in 2023

Property Transfers

- ▶ Every property that changes hands within St. Joseph County must have a report submitted to the Department of Health
- ▶ Properties on municipal utilities submit documentation
- ▶ Properties on Well and/or Septic must have inspections and water quality tested
- ▶ 5277 Property Transfer Records processed in 2022
 - ▶ 1431+ properties on well and/or septic
 - ▶ 540+ failures
 - ▶ Numbers not precise due to deferments and software tracking limitations
 - ▶ 3132 PTs so far YTD 2023
- ▶ None of this process is automated, but adding a new staff position to focus on property transfers in 2024, as well as improved software with a public facing portal

Vector - Mosquito

- ▶ One of the most robust adult surveillance programs in Indiana
- ▶ Significant Eastern Equine Encephalitis surveillance done since 2021
- ▶ Collaboration with University of Notre Dame
- ▶ West Nile Virus endemic in the area
 - ▶ 84 positive pools YTD, 1 human case in Elkhart County
- ▶ Only the 4th county in Indiana to do WNV testing at the local level
 - ▶ 11493 mosquitoes / 261 pools YTD



Vector – Ticks and more

- ▶ More ticks with Lyme in SJC than any other county in Indiana
 - ▶ 2017-2022: SJC -> 335; Pulaski -> 175
- ▶ More human cases of Lyme than any other county in Indiana
- ▶ First locally acquired case of babesiosis in the state of Indiana occurred in St. Joseph County in 2020.
- ▶ Backlog of data from CDC, no local testing options at the moment.
- ▶ Growing community appetite for bedbug action, partially due to increasing numbers