

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of March 13, 2018 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on March 13, 2018 in Wheeling City Council Chambers in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Terry Sterling, Tom Tuttle, David Croft, and Christian Turak. Staff present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary and Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD or department). Others present included member of the media.

The meeting was called to order. The Board approved of the January 9, 2018 regular Board of Health meeting.

Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway did not have a report.

Dr. Mercer gave the Health Officer's Report. Dr. Mercer discussed recent updates and activities with Project HOPE, the department's on going Snoopy/Joe Too Cool To Smoke Program and an update on the current flu activity in the county.

The administrator's report was given by Howard Gamble. The department will welcome two new staff this month. Michael Harvilla will be hired on a part time exempt status as a health inspector. Mr. Harvilla is a registered sanitarian who is retiring from the Marshall County Health Department. The department will employ him 1-2 days a week to conduct food service inspections. The department also hired Cheyenne McCroskey as a Office Assistant. Cheyenne will begin work in mid-March and will eventually replace one of our office staff who will be retiring in April 2018.

The administrator gave a short update on legislation that was completed that will impact local public health activities. SB 375 Related to Farmers Markets – pass both houses and is pending the Governor's approval. It will remove local health from some aspects of local farmer market activities. SB 472 This bill would have provided funding to WVDHHR for pay increases to county health departments. This bill did not pass. In short the bill would have required the Legislature to provide funds to Department of Health and Human Resources to provide local boards of health funds for pay raises for employees when the Legislature provides funds for across-the-board pay raises for state employees; limiting Department of Health and Human Resources from using provided funds for any other purpose; requiring annual funding to continue pay raises; and prohibiting Department of Health and Human Resources from placing additional restrictions or obligations on provided funds.

Environmental

The department is notifying residents along Fairmont Ave of a sewage issue and possible discharge into Caldwell's Run from several properties. In late February 2018 the department sent letters to resident's along Fairmont Ave asking for them to contact the

department to schedule a dye test. The department will be conducting dye testing until April 30, 2018. This issue was discovered in early 1991 but was not resolved. The dye testing will allow the department to understand which homes have a functioning septic or sewer system and which homes need to be corrected. This base line data will also allow for explaining the need for future funding to provide sewage service to this area.

There was no Unfinished Business for the Board.

In New Business, prior to the Board of Health meeting, members were presented with the January & February financials including Bills, Payroll, Aged Receivables and Year to Date Financials. The Board was also provided a copy of the department's annual audit report. The administrator presented to the Board the department's annual audit. No findings were found during the review. The audit was submitted to West Virginia DHHR and will be uploaded to the Federal Clearing House later in the month. The Board reviewed and approved the financial report and the annual audit report.

The Board did go into executive session. Following the Board's executive session, the Board reconvened back into the regular meeting. The Board approved a \$5,000.00 increase to the Health Officer's salary due to increased duties with the department's homeless outreach program. The Board set the next regular meeting for May 8, 2018. The Board adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

APPROVED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
May 8, 2018

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
May 8, 2018

NOTE: THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND NEED TO BE APPROVED DURING THE MAY 8, 2018 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING