

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of September 8, 2020 special meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on September 8, 2020 at 12:00pm in the City/County Building, City Council Chambers, Wheeling West Virginia.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Elisabeth Slater, Laura Chapman, Tom Tuttle, and Chad Thalman. Staff present included Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD or department) and Interim County Health Officer Dr. Thomas Wack. Others present included Lou Vargo, WOCEMA.

The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Chairman Dr. John Holloway. Minutes of the July 14, 2020 (regular board meeting) Board of Health meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved.

Interim County Health Officer Dr. Thomas Wack gave a brief Health Officers report including an update on Project HOPE. This included a Board discussion on the homeless camps and recent City of Wheeling proposed clean ups. Dr. Wack gave an update on COVID-19 including conference calls with Wheeling Hospital and the WVBPH.

The administrator gave a short report on the counties COVID-19 response to the Board of Health. Lou Vargo, Wheeling-Ohio County Emergency Management Agency was present to provide additional information on county COVID-19 activity and response.

- COVID Update: 303 total cases. This includes four (4) probable cases, twelve (12) cases among students in higher education and six (6) deaths. We do anticipate an increase in University associated cases in the very near future.

The department has received three COVID specific funding awards. In early June we received a special \$5000 grant with the help of our public health association from the River Valley Health Foundation. In late April we received a \$67334 award from the WVBPH for direct public health response for COVID-19. Most recently we received a \$1,500,000 grant from the WVBPH for regional activities for COVID-19. Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department will be the fiscal agency for this program.

On 9/9/20 the WOCHD and WOCEMA will hold an additional COVID-19 Higher Education Testing at WLU. This is part of our higher education testing program. The department has completed 8 testing clinics at both WU and WLU.

In New Business a financial packet was provided to the board prior to the meeting. The Board was provided with May/June and July/August financials. This included Bills and Payroll, Aged Receivables and Year to Date Financials. The Board approved both financial reports.

WOCHD was notified that they will need to procure an outside auditor for FY 20 and FY 21. The Board will need to appoint an Audit Committee to complete the audit selection process.

Board Chairman, Dr. John Holloway, will discuss the Audit Committee members with Board members.

The department is finalizing the WOCHD FY 21 Budget and will begin on the WIC FY21 budget shortly. It is the administrator's plan to offer a 5% salary increase for all staff (LHD and WIC) for the coming FY. This will be a across the board pay raise for all classified employees. This would not start until January 1, 2021. The FY21 WIC budget cycle begins October 1, 2020. The request was approved by the Board.

The no other business the Board adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

APPROVED BY

Thomas G Wack, MD, Interim Health Officer
November 10, 2020

John D Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
November 10, 2020