Seneca County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

The Seneca County Board of Health met on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at the Seneca County General Health District, conference room A, 92 E. Perry St., Tiffin, Ohio. With a quorum present, Board President Dr. Clay Wolph called the Board's special meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Board then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Roll Call:

Bonnie Boroff – Present	Edward Logsdon – Present	Scott Lyons – Present
McKenzie Posey – Present	Natasha Vitte – Present	Robert Watson – Excused
Dr. Zachary West– Present	Dr. Clay Wolph - Present	

Others Present:
Trisha Kahler, RD, LD, WIC Division
Lisa England, Registrar

Dr. Clay Wolph started the meeting by reading the Mission Statement of the Seneca County General Health District:

> The Seneca County General Health District, in collaboration with its citizens, promotes wellness, prevents disease, protects the environment, and assures access to quality health care.

Adding public comment
Dr. Wolph recommended that the Board adds public comments before adjournment.

Dr. West made a motion to add public comment to the agenda. Mrs. Vitte seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Establish 2023 Standing Board Committee Assignments
Dr. Wolph read the section of the by-laws which addresses the appointment of the committees.

Dr. Wolph had out a document with his appointments for the board standing committee assignments for the board to review. Dr. Wolph stated that the Board has three committees that are to have three members on them. Those committees are Environmental, Personnel and Finance.

Mrs. Boroff asked to change on the members/committee sheet that her occupation be changed to retired.

Mr. Lyons made a motion to approve the Board Committee Assignments as presented. Mrs. Boroff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review, consider, and make changes or modifications in the Board's contractual relationships for legal counsel

Dr. West discussed with the board members the information that was in their folders and explained that this does not need to be voted on tonight. Dr. Wolph said he would just like to discuss options and to address any concerns before decisions have to be made in 2 weeks on 01/26/2023.

Mrs. Posey discussed concerns and questions she had about the consent order and about the 12/29/2022 Board of Health Meeting.

Mr. Lyons questioned what the reason would be for changing attorneys. Dr. Wolph said this topic was just to discuss legal counsel options.

Mrs. Vitte said that in the meeting 12/29/2022 meeting she felt there were concerns of confidence in the current attorney and she felt that not all information was brought forward prior.

Mr. Lyons discussed previous license renewals and added conditions. He felt that the situation is different now and also that a change of legal counsel should have been considered sooner.

Mr. Logsdon has concerns about why the Board of Heath was not involved in the consent order at the time it was established.

Mr. Lyons feels that the attorney's job is to advise the board against an action that could result in the board being sued. Dr. West said they can be sued as a body or Board but not individually. He said this had been clarified with the county prosecutor. There is circumstance that you can personally be held but that would fall into ethics violations.

Dr. West feels that the board has to have confidence in the lawyer and he would like to review the options. Mrs. Vitte was also concerned and asked if there were any alternatives.

Mr. Logsdon and Mr. Lyons felt that it would be good to discuss the board's concerns with all potential attorneys. They were also concerned about the amount of time a new attorney would need to prepare. Mr. Lyons expressed concerns about changing counsel in the middle of a legal action.

Dr. Wolph was also concerned if the lawyer could terminate the contact if the Board doesn't agree with how they are advised. Mr. Logsdon also said by the contract the Board of Health could also terminate the contract.

Mrs. Posey and Mrs. Vitte thought that it would be good to look at the options. Mrs. Posey asked if Dr. Wolph and Dr. West plans to meet with the possible legal counsel prior to the next meeting and feels that it would be hard not to have conversations with them before a vote.

The Board tabled the topic till the 01/26/2023 meeting.

Review, consider, or make changes to Board Members' email communications

Mrs. Vitte made a motion to establish official emails for the Board of Health for all communication regarding Health Department Business. Mrs. Posey seconded the motion.

Dr. West would like to establish a timetable for establishing official emails for board members. The Board discussed having an update by the next meeting in two weeks.

The motion carried unanimously.

Public comment
Dr. Wolph opened the floor for comment.

Mr. Ben Nutter, of WIN Waste Innovations, asked if all board members have been using their private emails as their primary emails for communication with the board since they were on the board. He would like to know if the Health Department would know when they were each appointed. He then asked for this information as a Public Records request.

Dr. Wolph made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. Motion carried.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2023, at 6:00 pm, at the North Central Ohio Education Service Center.

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Board of Health President Board of Health Secretary