

BOARD OF HEALTH

January 11, 2017

7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Massa with the following members and staff present.

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Tom Taylor – Commissioner

John Glassco – Soap Lake

Carol Nordine – Electric City

STAFF

Katherine Kenison- HD Attorney

Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

Kathleen Nelson – Community Public Health Mgr.

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Todd Phillips - Environmental Health Mgr.

Darcy Moss – Admin. Services Mgr.

ABSENT

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Tom Harris - Quincy

GUESTSDarrik Gregg – Grant County Emergency
Management

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2017 – Board Member Dr. David Curnel nominated Mr. Massa for Chairman of the Board and Commissioner Tom Taylor seconded the motion. A motion was made to elect Mr. Massa as Chairman of the Board for 2017 (M/S Curnel/Taylor – unanimous).

Board Member Dr. David Curnel nominated Mr. Wanke as Vice Chairman of the Board and Board Member John Glassco seconded the motion. A motion was made to elect Mr. Wanke as Vice Chairman of the Board for 2017 (M/S Curnel/Glassco – unanimous).

ELECTION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR 2017 - A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Stevens and Board Member Mr. Wanke to the Audit Committee (M/S Massa/Curnel – unanimous).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented (M/S Curnel/Massa - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Massa - unanimous).



APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS - The vouchers for the period ending January 10, 2017 totaling \$198,535.09 (#1 – #19 totaling \$155,486.03 and #20 - #45 totaling \$43,049.06) were approved (M/S Curnel/Massa–unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS –

Darrik Gregg from Emergency Management introduced himself. Mr. Gregg has been with the Sheriff’s office for over 10 years. On January 1 he was hired as the Chief Deputy of Emergency Management.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Mr. Phillips

Royal Organic Update – Approximately twenty-five percent of incurred fees have been paid. If they intend to operate this year, the balance will need to be paid before they can obtain a permit to operate. The fees owed were from charges that were accumulated for additional GCHD staff time that was spent outside of what is included in their permit. The fees were based on a \$75/hour rate. Letters and e-mails have been sent reiterating this information to Royal Organics. Royal Organics has assured GCHD that the incurred fees and permit fee will be paid.

Mrs. Adkinson clarified that they have until the end of January to pay the incurred fees.

Health Officer Orders – Failed Septic System – GCHD received a surfacing sewage complaint in December. A letter was served to the property owner and also the purveyor of the water system that the property was connected to. The property had frozen pipes which caused a septic overflow which then flowed into the road. The water was shut off until the sewer lines were fixed. Grant County Public Works Department assisted in getting the icy sewage off the road. The sewer lines have been fixed with clean outs in place and the water has been turned back on.

Environmental Health Software – Grant funding was acquired in 2016. The software was recently purchased. The software has capability to aid in all environmental health programs with including food and sewage with respect to inspections and permitting. The goal is to reduce inefficiencies on the administrative side and lower costs. Food inspections will be able to be uploaded to our website with the software. It also has the capability of handling complaints.

Other Updates – Mr. Phillips updated the Board on the temporary water recreational facility permitting process in response to Commissioner Carter’s request at the previous meeting. He explained that the Department of Health is working on a plan review process and guidelines that are specific to the temporary facilities rather than a permanent facility. DOH currently completes the initial plan review for new water recreational facilities and the Health District in turn then permits the facility. The permitting of the temporary water recreational facilities like these became a matter when The Gorge requested a permit for a temporary facility at their amphitheater. The concern is that facilities have the potential to affect public health and should be permitted. Mr. Phillips has been and will continue to be in contact with the Department of Health regarding this.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the temporary water slides for private parties need to be permitted.

Mrs. Adkinson stated that they do not need to be permitted when they are rented by a private individual for a private function in their own yard.

Mr. Phillips informed the Board that there will be data coming out on the wells in the Blue Lake area with the concern of rotenone that was applied in the area by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. He will bring it to the Board when it becomes available.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Healthy Communities 1422 Program Update – This program consists of Chronic Disease prevention in two components. The first component is community prevention and the other is health services. Some of the work that has been done with this program under the first component is the trail systems that have been put in place to provide access to services and pedestrian safety. An example is the trail system near Electric City, which is currently in the planning stage. The second component includes health care workers locally and utilizing the clinic setting as a way to address chronic diseases. This local connection will assist at the State and Federal level in Chronic Disease prevention.

SNAP Education in Mattawa – SNAP Ed is a federal program which provides ways for prenatal and postpartum Mom's to get access to healthy food. GCHD has partnered with two Community Health Workers in Mattawa to begin teaching classes to those Mom's using healthy foods to encourage health eating. Having those classes taught by people from their own community should encourage attendance.

School Nurse Meetings – Mrs. Nelson shared that GCHD will be hosting a meeting with school nurses. Health District nursing staff are working to continue building relationships with the school nurses.

Other Updates - None

ASSESSMENT REPORT – None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

WA Healthcare Authority Mental Health Services - North Central Washington Region is moving forward as an early adopter for Medicaid Integrated Care Contracts, a new model for managed care. Mrs. Adkinson explained that she will be on a scoring committee for our region along with Barry Kling, Administrator of Chelan Douglas Health District. They will specifically be scoring the sections that impact local communities. The goal is to combine medical and behavioral health by 2018. The behavior health services that are now provided will be treated as managed care with a health care provider after the care contracts have been integrated. A consideration for IT needs for the new billing will need to be assessed. Commissioner Taylor is the Grant County Commissioner representative on the North Central Washington Behavioral Health Organization Board.

Grant County - Land Use/Septic - On January 3 a meeting was held with representatives from the Health District and Grant County Planning regarding water issues and the impact on the Comprehension Plan. Also discussed, the permitting and planning process. The meeting was held to discuss ways to work together to better the flow and improve the timeliness.

Mr. Phillips explained that GCHD staff is not only working on septic, water and planning, but also other areas of public health. There is not one full time staff that works in one specific program. Staff also provides expertise in programs like communicable disease, food inspections and solid waste and spend much of their time in these programs as well. Some staff spend up to seventy-five percent of their time in the field and are not always available to assist the public in the office. Going forward we would like to find ways to partner with other county agencies for a better process.

Commissioner Carter clarified that they would like to have a staff member in Ephrata to address the needs.

Commissioner Taylor stated that is it important to keep this dialogue flowing to allow the process to be more efficient and expedited for the public.

Mrs. Adkinson added that the Health District tries to keep staff costs low. Not every program in the agency is funded by fees. Many are dependent on the county and city contributions. She added that the Health District will work with the Planning Department to explore options to find a balance to meet both the district and county needs.

GCHD Wellness Committee – Mrs. Nelson shared that Healthy Communities staff have formed a wellness committee for GCHD. The committee will be encouraging healthy options with activities, tips and also forming policies for a healthy work environment. The committee would like to serve as an example and reach out to other communities in Grant County.

Dr. Curnel stated that the City of Moses Lake has a wellness program and he suggested reaching out to them for suggestions.

Other Updates – Mrs. Adkinson reported that Ryan Brimacombe, Accountant for the Health District, has resigned. He has agreed to stay on as an hourly employee during the transition and for training when a new accountant has been hired. The position has been posted.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Seasonal Flu Epidemic - The 2016 Communicable Disease summary was reviewed. STD's lead in case numbers and is an ongoing concern. Outreach activities will need to continue and expand to address the outbreak of Gonorrhea and other STD's. There had been zero cases of Syphilis for years and now we are seeing a rise in cases. The effects of this disease can damage individuals for life which makes it very concerning. With 20 cases, Grant County is at the top in the State. Much time and resources have been invested in these cases in the past couple of years.

Although influenza is not reportable, the number of cases reported continues to stay high. The last week in December a flu epidemic was declared in our County. People who get the vaccine are less likely to be as ill or hospitalized. Twenty to thirty percent of people go undetected because they have no symptoms. The effect of the vaccine is very significant.

Flu Outbreak Long Term Care - On December 20, two Influenza A cases were reported in staff members at a care facility. Three residents were also diagnosed causing an outbreak to be declared at the facility. Prophylaxis was administered to the other residents and ill individuals were isolated. Influenza kills people every year. There have been two influenza associated deaths in Grant County this year. It is recommended to receive the vaccine by mid-November.

Mumps Outbreak in WA – The outbreak is affecting five counties in Washington. Ninety-six percent of school aged children and ninety percent of school children are vaccinated for the Mumps, yet there continues to be cases. It appears that there will be a need for a third booster dose.

Zoonotic Diseases Update - The Zika virus has been subsiding with the freezing weather. Other states like Arizona and Texas where there is warmer weather could continue to see cases.

Other Updates - 38,000-45,000 Americans die each year from Opioid Addiction. It is a silent epidemic that parallels other diseases. In the future, Public Health will need to decide where it fits in and what the role will be to address this.

Dr. Curnel informed the Board that Laketown Pharmacy has naloxone for purchase and is opening a prescription drop box for unwanted medications. The City of Moses Lake also has a drop box for prescription drugs.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

ADJOURNMENT - With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:31p.m. (M/S Curnel/Carter – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Darcy Moss, Administrative Services Manager
Clerk of the Board
