

BOARD OF HEALTH**February 12, 2020****6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mr. Massa with the following members and staff present:

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

Kevin Newland – Wilson Creek

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Brad Parrish – Electric City

ABSENT

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

Tom Harris – Quincy

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer

Maria Vargas – CPH Manager

Rita Morfin – Board Clerk

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Stephanie Shopbell – E.H. Manager

Katherine Kenison – H.D. Attorney

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – A motion was made to approve the agenda. (M/S Stevens/Wanke – unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINTUES – The minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved as written (M/S Wanke/Stevens – unanimous).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The January vouchers for the period ending February 11, 2020 totaling \$212,914.87 (#1 – 3 totaling \$111,948.45, #4 – 14 totaling \$12,938.42, #15 – 23 totaling \$32,246.57, #24 – 42 totaling \$52,353.04, #43 – 55 totaling \$3,428.39)) were approved (M/S Parrish/Wanke – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS – None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Stephanie Shopbell

Public Hearing – Ordinance 20-1 Fee Schedule – The meeting was opened to a public hearing; with no comments the public hearing was closed (M/S Stevens/Newland – unanimous). A motion was made to approve Ordinance 20-1 Fee Schedule (M/S Stevens/Wanke – unanimous).

City of Ephrata Water System Operating Permit – They are currently operating under a Red Operating Permit due to failure to follow a directive from DOH which was ordered last year. Per Mr. Wanke, a resolution is being worked on.

Craft3 Regional Loan Program – An application was submitted in 2019 and accepted January 2020. The loan program provides low interest loans for repairs of on-site septic system for primary residences, but due to funding for the program, Grant County probably won’t see funds dispersed in 2020.

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Grant County Conservation District Ecology Grant Application – Currently 83rd in the ranking but to received funding Grant County needs to be higher ranking.

Environmental Health Rule Revision Updates – This is ongoing with a food briefing in April and possibly public hearing in July. There is an updated timeline in packet.

Other – GCHD has hired an Environmental Health Technician, Reece Leavitt. He started February 3rd and has been training with EH staff. An offer was extended to an Environmental Health Specialist candidate and hope to hear by the end of the week.

Monthly reports were provided in the packet.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Maria Vargas

Staff Updates – GCHD has a new PHN starting February 24th; the current PHN has resigned with February 14th being her last day and leaving GCHD without a nurse for about a week. Theresa is going to meet with LHJ's regarding resources in the event we need help. With the resignation of our PHN, GCHD's assessment coordinator has accepted the new role of Disease Investigator on a trial period. We do have the capability to use Spokane Regional for any epi response assistance.

Theresa will have a meeting with colleagues to discuss Coronavirus and shared services for TB testing. King County is available for assistance for any active TB cases that may arise.

Discussion held with the board on how to recruit nurses.

Community Partnership to Address Need for Low to No Cost STI Testing – Approximately four years ago Family Planning closed their doors and Planned Parenthood opened; there seemed to be a lack of acceptance within our community partly due to stigma surrounding their agency as well as their inconsistent hours. They did not accommodate the needs of our community and therefore has left a great need to explore additional options for STI testing as well as other low-cost services that Family Planning once provided. GCHD is working with local partners to provide STI testing by March.

Prescription to Play & Farmer's Market SNAP MATCH – The goal is to get kids in the community more active, the funding is no longer supporting the popularity of the program and GCHD is working on ensuring the guidelines that were put in place to support the program are being followed. Kids can receive vouchers from their providers at their well-child visit to participate in select activities offered by local Park & Recreation ie: soccer, baseball, basketball etc.

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GCHD has a Market Match program that is completely funded by local clinics. A community member that spends \$10 with their EBT card is then given \$10 additional through this program to use on fresh fruits and vegetables. There is a grant through Paul Lauzier that is being worked on to secure more funding.

Secure Your Cannabis Campaign for Retailers – Health Educators at GCHD are working with local retailers to educate the public on methods to keep cannabis secure and inaccessible to our youth. They will be displaying a campaign that will showcase an example of a lockbox that can be used to keep the products locked away for safety.

Other – Monthly updates in packet.

ASSESSMENT REPORT - None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT -Theresa Adkinson

2019 Financial Update – Emailed out to the board. GCHD revenue was up by \$119,000 more than budgeted, much of that coming from the food program.

Phone System Upgrade – Contract Approval – Theresa presented the new phone system upgrade. Motion was made for contract approval; Mr. Massa will sign once it's received. (M/S Parrish/Newland – unanimous).

CLA Accounting Agreement – Contract Approval – Mr. Massa and Theresa received the annual contract and advised the board that there is a new 5% Technical Support Fee that will increase the monthly bill to \$6,400. Motion was made to approve the contract contingent on the review of Ms. Kenison (M/S Stevens/Wanke – unanimous).

Legislative Update – GCHD staff had their day on “the hill” meeting with the 12th and 13th district. Many common questions were asked ie: blue/green algae. Theresa updated the board on bills that are up for approval.

Other – None

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

2019-nCoV Update (Corona Virus) – Dr. Brzezny has been partaking in weekly phone calls with DOH on dealing with travelers from China. The United States must be prepared to see cases as well as Grant County. Dr. Brzezny confirmed that there are currently no confirmed of coronavirus or persons under investigation for it in Grant County. There is one confirmed case in Washington state. As of February 11th, 15 individuals are being investigated in Washington state.

All flights from China are being routed to 11 specific airports in the US to include SeaTac. SeaTac does have screening measure in place. But disease could be asymptomatic in some.

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Facilities are being organized to handle any overflow that may come in. Dr. Brzezny advised the board that while symptoms may be mild, it has been severe in about 15-20% with the illness sometimes taking seven to eight days to progress to more severe after initially mild illness. The Coronavirus genome bears about approximately 85% genetic similarity to SARS. Discussion held on the possible transmission. The death rate is difficult to estimate but could be around 2% in those diagnosed.

There is currently no vaccine to protect from the coronavirus, but many are working on it. It could be 2-3 months before phase one study is complete and 18 months before we see a vaccine. Fliers from the CDC were shared with the board. Health officials are preparing regionally for testing, isolation and quarantine and other measures

Hepatitis A Virus – In WA, there are currently 219 cases, 124 hospitalizations and five deaths. GCHD has responded to the statewide outbreak by working on increasing vaccination rates. Our PHN administered 50 vaccinations to the Grant County jail and an addition 50 has been administered through the jail staff, 17 have been administered during SSP and three at homeless camps.

Influenza Update – Influenza A had a recent increase with about 95% of it being H1N1. According to the CDC there have been 210,000 hospitalizations and more than 12,000 deaths in the US to date with approximately 22 million people infected by the flu. These numbers are much more than Coronavirus for now and it is not getting the media reporting attention that it deserves.

SSP Update – Flier in packet

Tuberculosis, Recent Workload Review – There has been a significant increase in TB work, however there are no active cases to date.

Notifiable Conditions Stats – Flier in packet.

Other – There was a Norovirus outbreak that including 70 people in one facility.

There will be an additional three months for the reporting of EVALI.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

ADJOURNMENT – With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. (M/S Wanke/Stevens – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Rita Morfin, Clerk of the Board