

## **BROOKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES**

Monday March 17, 2024, 7:00pm  
Brooke County Courthouse

Present: Joe Ierise, Mary Blum, Jennifer Cross, Carrie Estrada, Dr. DePetro, April Eltringham, Michael Bolen: Guest, Emma Ferguson.

Joe Ierise called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

### Public Comment:

Emma Ferguson wishes to discuss some issues in the hope of helping the community, especially the communities of Follansbee and the Hoover Heights areas. She wants her family and friends to have a safe and better place to live. Her issues of concern are raw sewage running into waterways in areas, illegal dumping, drug paraphernalia, what she believes to be drug houses near local schools, inadequate streetlighting, and broken fire hydrants. She also presents the board pictures of the areas of her concern. The Board thanks her for her concerns and Administrator Mike Bolen addresses the issues and explains to Ms. Ferguson that her concerns are a matter of the City of Follansbee, PSD, and Police. He offered to sit down in the future to provide Ms. Ferguson with all the resources. Ms. Ferguson stated that the State pointed her in the Health Departments direction however Local Health Departments has no jurisdiction over public sewage, only private septic systems. The Board again applauds Ms. Ferguson for her legitimate concerns for our residents and their safety.

Welcome new Board Member Amanda Barnett.

Members reviewed January 13th meeting minutes.

Motion to approve: Jennifer Cross, Second by Carrie Estrada. All in favor.

### Correspondence:

Letter of support from Nicholas Riley on cigar bars.

New Business:

1. Members reviewed Expenditure Report

Motion to approve: Mary Blum, second Jennifer Cross, All in favor.

Old Business:

1. Havana Nights Cigar bar application was turned in. Administrator Mike Bolen advised that with laws that were explained about no smoking and with the Boards approval there will be no permit issued for this establishment. The Board members saw no reason either for The Health Department to issue the Permit.

Administrative Report.

1. PEIA increased the premiums 16% this year, in the last three years it raised almost forty thousand dollars. This year the employees' deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses will also increase 40% with a 50% increase in co-pays and prescriptions. The Board finds this disturbing as more increases are to come as well.
2. Mike Bolen updates the Board on the Measles outbreak, Dr. Depetro stated that we may not see an effect right now possibly in the years to come being that WV has had strict immunization policies.

Motion to adjourn 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Ieris", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature across the page.

Joe Ieris, Chair