

# BROOKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

**Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

Present: John Cunningham, Joe Ierise, Judith Martich, Mary Blum, Jennifer Cross, Michael Bolen, April Eltringham, Dr. Deptro  
Guest: Warren Scott

John Cunningham called Meeting to order at 7:30pm

Public comment: No public comment

Judith Martich motioned to approve minutes from meeting held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and John Cunningham second that motion.

Correspondence about medical cannabis provided by Greg Gerdeman.

Administrator Mike Bolen also presented a letter to the State of WV, from City of Weirton regarding extending fees due. This was presented to board regarding Permit fees going out to Brooke County permitted facilities, with a due date and penalty if not due. The Board advises Administrator to use judgement when assessing those fees and penalties.

## New Business

1. Review and approval of Expenditure Report, motion to approve Judith Martich, second to approve Joe Ierise
2. Review and approval of Annual FY 2021 Program Plan, motion to approve Mary Blum, second to approve John Cunningham.
3. Review and approval of Annual FY 2021 Budget, motion to approve Mary Blum, second to approve Joe Ierise.
4. All signed conflict of interest forms received from board members
5. Medical Cannabis discussion

## Old Business

1. The Garden Grille steakhouse has not submitted their required quality of air test to the Brooke County Health Department. This was a requirement that was previously agreed upon through their exempt letter to smoke cigars in their cigar bar. It was mentioned by the board that this be turned in by July 1<sup>st</sup> and no later. If not submitted it was recommended that the waiver be pulled.
2. The board voted all in favor to approve medical cannabis dispensaries in Brooke County after seeking Dr. Deptro's professional opinion. The board members felt unsure as they were not provided with enough information from the state. Dr. Deptro stated that the board probably should not stand in the way of the state law and follow their lead on the matter.

## Administrative Report:

As of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

900 Residents have been Tested for COVID-19

3 cases have been confirmed

46 contacts have been traced

The county has been lucky of 0 deaths.

The health department has traced out of state residents that currently work in Brooke County.

The Health Department is not responsible for COVID-19 Testing, just tracing.

A drive through clinic was held at the Brooke Middle School with the help of Hancock County Health Department, Brooke County EMA, Brooke County Sheriff's office, Brooke County Schools, The National Guard and Chang Inc. approximately 20 residents were tested, and they all were negative.

On the community and organizations scaling back, a hospital surge was prevented. Good job to all.

The Health Department staff has done an amazing job through the pandemic.

There were 5 shipments of PPE that the health department received, sorted, and delivered.

Administrator Mike Bolen thanked the Board for their approval on the ban of liquor sales to out of state residents as he feels it was a tremendous effective decision on spreading COVID-19.

Judith Martich would like on record that she abstained on that vote. Dr. Deptro suggest that that order be rescinded, so the board voted unanimously to rescind the vote on liquor sales. It was also approved that permanent full-time staff receive overtime after physically working 40hrs a week through the pandemic.

The health department also wrote a letter to County Commission asking for \$5000.00 of hero pay.

Mike Bolen ask the board for with their approval in the future to purchase a truck to be able to pull trailers. John Cunningham motion to approve and Joe Ierise second.

The courthouse is now open by appointment only, so the health departments vaccination and family planning clinics will resume as scheduled.

The environmental department has received an abundance of complaints and concerns about facilities not social distancing or not following the guidance ordered by the Governor. The sanitarian investigated the concerns and if correction was needed, it was advised.

Food inspections are suspended through the state temporarily, but the sanitarians will follow up with complaints. The health department is still not conducting home loan evaluations currently.

The health department is also working on partnering with the Brooke County Schools and Bethany College for the upcoming school year and summer programs.

Staff at the health department have been short as part time sanitarian is out on maternity leave, Billie Kins a dedicated 29year employee has been out with the pandemic a concern. Also, Jane Rush a 31-year dedicated employee announced her official retire date as June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Jane retired already but has stayed on to help in any way. Her time with the health department will not go unnoticed and the board approves the purchase of a plaque. Then health department also plans on having a lunch for Jane on her last day of work, John Cunningham request that he be notified so he can attend.

The health department will be hiring an office assistance in the near future.

Judith Martich motion to go into executive session at 8:45pm, Mary Blum second the motion.

Mary Blum motioned to end executive session at 9:03pm, Judith Martich second the motion.

The board votes unanimously to increase the board of health pay, and administrators pay.

Judith Martich motion to adjourn at 9:05pm

Judith Martich motion to adjourn @9:04pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

John Cunningham, Chair