

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:00 p.m.
Leelanau County Government Center
6527 E Government Center
Suttons Bay MI 49682**

Chairperson Gary Sauer called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

Members Present:

Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Barbara Conley – Leelanau County Member at Large
Art Jeannot – Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Ty Wessell – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large
Gwenne Allgaier – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

Dr. Joshua Meyerson – Medical Director
Dodie Putney – Director of Administrative Services
Eric Johnston – Director of Environmental Health
Dan Thorell – Health Officer
Michelle Klein - Director of Personal Health

Staff Excused: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Conley to approve the November 29, 2023, BOH meeting minutes.
Seconded By: Allgaier
Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Conley to approve the agenda with adding the item, Appointment of Member to the Personnel and Finance Committee, after the Health Officer Update.
Seconded By: Allgaier
Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**

Public Comment – None

Health Officer Update- Dan Thorell

A report was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. As the renovation process for the Environmental Health office at the Leelanau County Government Center advances, there was a slight issue discovered in the IT portion of the renovation. It was determined that the desk phones need to be hardwired into the building's ethernet instead of using the building's WiFi. Currently, Wyant Technologies and the electrician are meeting to see what the best way to accomplish this will be. Once a plan is established the electrician had been asked by the architect and contractor to submit a bid to complete the project.

Munson Healthcare and Northern Michigan Care Partners have partnered with BLDHD to apply for a grant through the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to help fund a portion of the Community Connections program. Since Munson Health Care began sending referrals to the program at the beginning of December, the amount of Community Connection referrals has increased by 307%. The funding that is being applied for would be used for staffing costs.

There is a 3rd draft of the House Bills 4479 and 4480 regarding the Statewide Sanitary Code being reviewed. There were some changes to the initial evaluations to onsite wastewater systems.

Request for Authorization up to \$10,000 to Install Cabling in the Environmental Health Space in the Leelanau County Government Center

Motion By: Sauer to approve the authorization of up to \$10,000 to get the cabling in place for the Environmental Health Space in the Leelanau County Government Center.

Seconded By: Allgaier

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Allgaier – yea, Wessell – yea, Kuiper – yea, Jeannot - yea
6 yeas 0 nays 0 excused Motion carried

Discussion: It was asked if Leelanau County would be contributing any funding to this expense. Leelanau County may agree to pay a portion of the expense, pending on what will enrich the building space for future tenants. This will be determined once the IT plans are complete. The funding for this project will be entirely from State grants.

Appointment of Member to Personnel & Finance Committee

Motion By: Jeannot to appoint Jeannot to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

Seconded By: Conley

Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nays 0 excused Motion carried

Discussion: Commissioner Jeannot was welcomed to the BOH.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Conley to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$652,018.86.

Seconded By: Allgaier

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Allgaier – yea, Wessell – yea, Kuiper – yea, Jeannot - yea
6 yeas 0 nays 0 excused Motion carried

December Financial Statements

Motion By: Conley to accept the financial statements as presented.

Seconded By: Wessell

Roll Call Vote: Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper – yea, Allgaier – yea, Sauer – yea, Jeannot- yea
6 yeas 0 nays 0 excused Motion carried

BOH Meeting Dates for 2024

Motion By: Conley to approve the BOH meeting dates that were presented.

Seconded By: Allgaier

Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nays 0 excused Motion carried

Leelanau Environmental Health Furnishings

Motion By: Conley to accept the bid presented by Custer Inc., not to exceed \$70,300 for office furnishings for the Environmental Health Space in the Leelanau County Government Center.

Seconded By: Wessell

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Allgaier-yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper – yea, Jeannot - yea
6 yeas 0 nays 0 excused Motion carried

Discussion: Three different companies had submitted bids. Custer had conducted the most thorough interview of what the needs were for the EH space in the Leelanau County Government

Center. BLDHD will be paying the entire cost for the office furnishings. The fund balance and the County Appropriations will not be used for this. BLDHD will also utilize as much of the office furniture that they already own for this space. It was asked if there was a warranty on any of the items that will be purchased. It was unknown at the time, but Johnston was going to ask Custer. Custer responded before the end of the meeting that there was a warranty on the products that they would sell to BLDHD.

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

A report was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The use of cigarettes is at an all-time low, but the use of vaping devices is much higher. Michigan is one of 10 states that does not require a license to sell tobacco products. Most current tobacco laws in MI focus on punishing minors who have illegally purchased tobacco products. There is a bill in the Senate to create a law that vendors must be licensed by the State of MI to sell tobacco products and that punishments for violations of the laws are to be directed at the sellers not the minors purchasing the products. Also, there is a bill being introduced to tax e-cigarettes, currently there is no specific tax towards these products.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Staffing changes in the PH programs were discussed. The millage for the Leelanau Parenting Communities will be on the ballot this fall. Currently, BLDHD has funding for this program through 2025.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The updated Sanitary Code for Benzie and Leelanau Counties went into effect almost 1 year ago. The request for inspections did increase dramatically for Leelanau County and that was to be expected as this code was new for this County. The inspection requests for Benzie were slightly up as this program had been in effect for this County for over 30 years. A new Sanitarian began this month, Corey Weaver. He will be working on the Type II program, food inspections, campgrounds and pools. January is Radon Awareness Month. As of January 24th, the Give a Can, Get a Kit program had distributed 60 radon testing kits.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Bids for the Benzie EH/Admin office remodel are due on February 3, 2024.

Public Comment – None


Board Comments – None

Adjourn:

Motion By: Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**


Gary Sauer, Chair


Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary