

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, October 26, 2022 2:00 p.m.
Benzie Resource Center – Ingemar Johansson Conference Room
6051 Frankfort Hwy. Ste. 101
Benzonia, MI 49616**

Chairperson Dr. Barbara Conley called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

Members Present:

Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Ty Wessell – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Barbara Conley – Leelanau County Member at Large
Rhonda Nye – Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large – arrived at 2:04p.m.

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: Patricia Soutas-Little – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Staff Present:

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

Staff Excused: None

Guests Present: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Wessell to approve the September 28, 2022, BOH meeting minutes.

Seconded By: Sauer

Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Wessell to approve the agenda with removing Item 3 until a later date.

Seconded By: Conley

Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

Public Comment – None

Health Officer Update – Dan Thorell

A written report was distributed prior to the meeting for review. Please refer to it for details. Thorell went into detail about the State funding increase for the Type II water program and what that means for local health departments. MDHHS had visited the Benzie site to gain insight on day-to-day operations for administrating water quality programs.

Thorell had passed the background check and was offered the full-time position of Health Officer. He is in the process of negotiating his contract with HDNWM. It was asked if the wage decided during the negotiation process would affect the amount that BLDHD is paying HDNWM. Yes, the wage and benefits that will be agreed upon will affect how much BLDHD will be paying HDNWM for the services of a Health Officer.

Sanitary Code Revision Update

A written revision of the code had been distributed for review prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. One of the attachments was a timeline that indicated how and when the quickest way to have this amended code go into effect for the two Counties. Johnston explained that the proposed code would have to go before a public hearing to receive comment and questions from the residents of both Counties. After the public hearing, the code along with any public comment would go before the BOH to be voted for recommendation for the County Boards to adopt. The code would then go before each County Commission to be voted into effect. Both Counties would have to accept it to make it an ordinance that could be enforced. It was questioned if the Board of Appeals would still be applicable. Yes, the Board of Appeals would exist. It was also suggested that the timeline for when communication going out to a property owner be reduced from 120 days to 30 days. The revised code will be available for the public to review at the BLDHD website and on the BLDHD's Facebook page. It was also decided that a motion needed to be made on what days it was decided to hold the public hearings on the updated sanitary code.

Motion By: Sauer to approve holding a Public Hearing Meeting at the Benzie Resource Center on November 21, 2022 at 7p.m., with the Leelanau Government Center being open with IT resources available to allow public to ask questions or express opinions from the second location. Having a second Public Hearing Meeting on November 28, 2022 at 7p.m., at the Leelanau Government Center with the Benzie Resource Center being open to the public with IT resources available to allow public to ask questions or express opinions from the second location.

Seconded By: Wessell

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Nye- yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper - yea

5 yea 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Sauer to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$308,102.06

Seconded By: Wessell

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Nye- yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper - yea

5 yea 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Year End Update

Due to the amount of work that goes in to closing the fiscal year, the September financials will be presented at the November 30, 2022 BOH meeting.

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

It was asked, what was the CDC's current stance on the Covid vaccination for children? It is on the recommended list. Public schools have a required list of vaccinations and a recommend list. It was placed on the recommended list so uninsured or underinsured children would be eligible to be able to access this vaccine at no cost.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The Community Connections program is at capacity and has developed a policy for implementing a waiting list. As the application process opens for the School Wellness Programs, Klein will be putting in applications. If awarded, the funds will be used to provide a school nurse and a mental health provider for our other school districts.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. In the report there was information about the number of permits that have been issued over the past few years. It did a comparison showing how the numbers have been trending up. It was asked what will happen if/when a recession hits the economy. Measures that had been taken during the 2008 housing crisis were discussed as possibilities for the future if a recession does occur.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Putney asked the BOH if the new format for the financial reporting was acceptable and it was agreed that everyone liked it. It was discussed that if the Leelanau Government Center was not going to be a good fit to move the Leelanau Environmental Health division, what other avenues should be reviewed? It was mentioned that finding commercial property to lease would be easiest in the southeast corner of Leelanau County near Greilickville. A concern that was brought up was, would a different location be able to serve residents effectively. The idea of surveying frequent users of the Environmental Health services would be the best course of action to see if there is a location that would be most convenient for them.

Public Comment – None.

Board Comments – It was asked if there would be a December BOH meeting. At the February 2022 BOH meeting, it had been voted on not to hold a meeting in December.

Adjourn:

Motion By: Nye to adjourn the BOH meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Second By: Kuiper

Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

Dr. Barbara Conley, Chair

Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary