

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:00 p.m.
Benzie Resource Center – Ingemar Johansson Conference Room
6051 Frankfort Hwy. Ste. 101
Benzonia, MI 49616**

Chairperson Sauer called the meeting to order at 2:04 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
Gwenne Allgaier – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

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

Staff Excused: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Wessell to approve the May 1, 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 as presented.
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 prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. It was discussed how the sale of tobacco is not regulated by the State of Michigan and that the taxation of e-cigarettes and vaping devices is different than combustible cigarettes. It was asked if it was proven effective to raise taxes to deflect people from smoking. A study has shown that this is an effective method. The taxes that are raised from the sale of tobacco does not necessarily go back into education of the dangers of smoking or to help pay for the cost of medical needs caused by smoking. The money is given to the State and the State decides on how it will be spent.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Conley to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$120,589.73.

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

April 2023 Financial Statements

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

Seconded By: Conley

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

Local Appropriations

Motion By: Sauer to approve the appropriation request for Benzie County, \$255,248, and Leelanau County, \$322,020, the same amount that was requested last year.

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

MIPCON 2023 Annual Conference

This item will be tabled. It will be investigated to see if the software company would host a training opportunity in Michigan.

Renewal of Lease Agreement with the Leelanau Montessori Public Academy

Motion By: Conley to accept the lease that was presented by the Leelanau Montessori Public Academy for the area that BLDHD is currently occupying.

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

Discussion: The lease was reviewed by BLDHD’s attorney, and the language had been condensed in the lease to make it more cohesive. Other than the rewording of a few sections the School would not change any terms within the lease agreement. There will be a rent increase starting July 1, 2023. The length of the lease will be for three years with an annual rent increase of 4%. The cost of operational expenses will decrease from 50% to 40%.

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. There are now more distinct guidelines available on when Covid vaccines should be given. Lead paint is the leading cause for children to experience lead poisoning. The acceptable level of lead levels in blood samples has been decreasing over the years as no level is a safe level and the average levels from test results have been decreasing over time. There are ways to treat a child if the lead test comes back as unacceptable.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Carolina Tabora-Cortez, a Community Connections Worker for BLDHD, won the Linda Hutchinson Advocate of Year Award for her dedication, professionalism, and kindness to ensure that residents receive the services that are needed. The number of clients served in all personal health capacities has risen over the year compared to last year.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Information about the proposed “Statewide Sewage Code” was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Beach monitoring will begin for the 2023 season on June 14, 2023 and run through September 6, 2023. There was only enough funding provided to monitor six beaches on Lake Michigan this year and the Village of Beulah paid to have Crystal Lake beach monitored. It was asked how the beaches were selected and it was explained that they were chosen by the Counties some years back. If the County would like to add a beach then they would need to drop a beach or pay the \$1,500 cost of having that beach monitored. A grant request for qPCR testing of water samples with elevated test results has been submitted. It is hoped that this testing method will assist in determining the cause of the contamination.

The State of Michigan still has the bid process open for contractors to bid on the Michigan Failing Septic System Repair Funding Program. The bills for instituting a statewide sanitary code are at the committee level for approval. Local Health Administrators would like to be included in the discussion with lawmakers about what this code would really look like for the public and for those who would have to administer it. The new bill would eliminate what Leelanau and Benzie Counties have in place for inspection requirements. Instead of having septic systems reviewed at point of property transfer, all septic systems would have to be inspected every five years.

Johnston met with the architect regarding the Leelanau Governmental Center remodel. The architect confirmed that the one bid that had come in for the job was accurate. The plans were redrawn to hopefully reduce the cost of the remodel. The new plan includes no bathroom, only two offices and the rest of the area would be cubicles. The technological needs were also rethought out. The revised project is going back out to bid.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Also, a copy of the Continuity of Operations Plan was distributed during the meeting. Please refer to it for details. A meeting with the Building Partners took place and it was decided that an expansion of the Benzie Resource Center or a remodel will not happen. Future funding was a large concern. BLDHD will remodel some spaces that they currently are occupying. Base rent will increase for all tenants to create a contingency fund to cover any upcoming expenses that may occur as the building ages. In order for the building to revert back to Benzie County the building would need to be remortgaged or a new loan taken out for another project. The idea for that is being tabled for now.


Public Comment – None

Board Comments – Conley asked if the BLDHD had received any funding from the State in regard to recruiting new staff or hiring interns. BLDHD has not. MALPH has been discussing with MSU about creating an Academic Health Department as a teaching tool to educate and recruit students in the public health field. It was asked if BLDHD has a remote work policy, and, yes, they do. BLDHD has several staff currently working remotely due to the lack of space at either office building.

Adjourn:

Motion By: Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 4:13 p.m.

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



Gary Sauer, Chair



Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary