

GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse
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Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-6060



HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 W. Ivy Avenue
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 766-7960

BOARD OF HEALTH December 10, 2008 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Wanke with the following members, staff and guests present.

MEMBERS

Jon Lane – Moses Lake
Tony Massa – Warden
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek
Mark Wanke – Ephrata
Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Keith Anstine – Quincy
Gerald Sands – Electric City
Richard Stevens – Commissioner
LeRoy Allison – Commissioner

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Manager

Jerry Campbell – EH Director
Jim Whitaker – Attorney

ABSENT

Peggy Grigg – Administrator/PH Director

GUESTS

Wendy Brzezny – GCHD
Randy Bracht – Grant County Journal

Beverlee Kelley – GCHD

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 12, 2008 were approved as written (M/S Anstine/Kelby – unanimous). Mr. Stevens abstained from the motion as he was absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

PERSONAL HEALTH /ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Ordinance 2008-5 (2009 Budget) – Dr. Brzezny stated that there have been no changes to the budget since it was presented at last month's meeting. There have been reductions in the revenues (fees) due to the economic climate which amounts to approximately \$56,000.

It was decided to wait on the adoption of the 2009 budget until after the executive session.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Well Delegation Report – Mr. Campbell gave the board a report on the number of the wells that have been inspected. It included the percentages of: total site visits; driller on site; driller not on site and the no shows. The District is required to look at 50% of the wells and we are fulfilling the requirements. As of the end of November 2008, total site visits were at 59%.

Fairgrounds Report – Mr. Campbell reported on the correspondence he has had with Richard Benson, State Department of Health regarding the fairgrounds. Mr. Benson has still not received the report that he has requested from the county's engineer, Gray & Osborne.

Mr. Stevens said this is the first he has heard of it and will push for the engineers to get the report to DOH.

Mr. Allison asked if this was still an issue for the City of Moses Lake. Mr. Lane said it was now an issue between the county and DOH.

Public Works Shop on Wheeler Rd. Mr. Lane also inquired about the well that was dug on Wheeler Rd. where Public Works is building a new shop.

Mr. Stevens stated that the City of Moses Lake told Mr. Pohle, Public Works Director that the location was not in the UGA so they would be unable to hook into city water and sewer. They will become a Group B water system.

Mr. Lane and Mr. Stevens exchanged what each of them was aware of regarding the situation. Mr. Campbell then stated that the county needs to make a formal written request regarding this issue so the city can formally respond with an answer.

Food Inspections for October & November – Mr. Campbell provided the Board with the food inspections that were done in October and November.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Seasonal Flu Update – Dr. Brzezny reported that there has been no increase in activity regarding Influenza B and there will probably be more cases in the next few weeks.

Infectious Disease Update –

Tuberculosis – The District has closed their last case of active tuberculosis this past month.
Salmonella Poona – Only the one case has been reported in Grant County.

District vs. Department – A public hearing was held on Monday afternoon with a large number of people in attendance. Five people spoke including Dr. Brzezny and Mrs. Grigg.

There is concern that there will not be a proper assessment of the consequences should a change occur. Three percent of what the Health District does is regarding the water issue. The Health District faced these same issues in 1981 and 1982. Dr. Brzezny has also received calls from colleagues concerning this issue.

Washington State Department of Health arranged for a conference call this morning with Mr. Campbell and 2 staff members. They wanted to know if there was anything they could do to help the Health District. They said if there was ever a political issue, they would be happy to take care of the situation. Also in certain situations, they could be a third party in regards to talking with the county regarding requirements.

Dr. Brzezny said the challenges we face are not unique to us, but we tend to find ourselves in between issues that concern the county and the state.

When Kittitas County became a Department, Department of Ecology shut down all land development until they had an agreement with the DOE. This was due to not following the rules.

Dr. Brzezny suggested that DOH should possibly assess the Health District's way of doing things and determine if we are too restrictive or doing things just right.

Mr. Whitaker again explained the Gwyn vs. Campbell ruling. Part of the issue in the ruling is that they are talking about original parcels but no date was mentioned.

The commissioner's reasoning behind the possibility of changing to a Department is: the water issue; they have a severe budget crunch; and can they save money overall partially due to the duplicity of services.

Dr. Brzezny stated that more time is needed to study the situation. A lot of people did not know about the public hearing because of the short notice. Mr. Wanke asked if they could hold the next meeting at night since many cannot take off work to attend. Mr. Stevens said that they would have to cancel the meeting and re-advertise. Also, the public comment portion was closed and that the public hearing could again be continued. Mr. Stevens said he has not had any time to go through any of Dr. Brzezny's handouts due to union negotiations. Dr. Brzezny urged the commissioner's to continue to research the situation.

Discussion was held regarding jail health services and the cost to the county to provide for this which is viewed as a duplication of services. Dr. Brzezny stated that there has been no talk regarding duplicity in any of the areas of concern. Another concern is if there really is a cost savings to the county in the changeover. The RCW states that a full time Health Officer is required for a county Department.

Mr. Massa asked if the change would occur in 2010. Mr. Stevens stated the county needs to give 6 months notice and since the change wouldn't occur until 2011 there is still time to iron out some issues.

Dr. Brzezny said he is offering his assistance in helping work out some of the issues at hand including linking the county with possible other solutions in regards to jail health. Mr. Lane said he also would like the issue studied to see if there really would be a cost savings.

Mr. Stevens said the commissioners have not made a final decision, it is not a done deal and it was disappointing to only have 4 people testify at the hearing. They were hoping for more public input. The change would occur at the beginning of the calendar year.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending November 30, 2008 totaling \$147,032.90 (#1-#4 totaling \$131,786.07) and (#5-#56 totaling \$15,246.83) were approved (M/S Anstine/Allison - unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The public meeting was adjourned and an executive session was called to discuss union negotiations to last approximately 20 minutes at 7:56 p.m.

The public meeting was re-opened at 8:18. A motion was made to adopt Ordinance 2008-5 (M/S Anstine/Lane – discussion).

Mr. Allison stated that he was not sure the county can retain the current level of funding that it provides for the District. They have had some layoffs in the county and the number could rise in order to balance the budget. They have asked Departments to take their 2008 budget and cut it by 3%.

It was suggested that since there are not any current active TB cases, this figure could possibly be reduced. If needed, the Health District could request further funding. The requested reduction was to reduce the funding from \$42,550 to \$20,000. The commissioner's acknowledged that TB funding is their responsibility.

The motion was amended to reduce the TB funding to \$20,000 – unanimous decision.

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The question was raised if that left the District with one month's reserve for expenditures which in fact it will fall a little short. The commissioner's stated that they did not have one month of expenditures in their ending fund balance.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. (M/S Anstine/Carter – unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

Mark Wanke, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer