

# GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 37  
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(509) 754-6060



# HEALTH DISTRICT

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

## BOARD OF HEALTH

December 8, 2010

7:00 PM

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

### MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden  
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek  
Tony Gonzalez - Quincy  
Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Gerald Sands – Electric City  
Heidi Schultheis – Ephrata  
Cindy Carter – Commissioner  
Carolann Swartz – Commissioner

### STAFF

Jeff Ketchel – Administrator  
Pattie Anderson – Admin. Services Mgr.  
Janet Saito - Accounting Clerk

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer  
Jerry Campbell – EH Director  
Jim Whitaker – HD Attorney

### ABSENT

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

### GUESTS

Shantra Hannibal - Columbia Basin Herald  
Mrs. Kelby - Wilson Creek

Randy Bracht, Grant Co. Journal  
Katherine Kennison - Ephrata

There will be a couple of additions to the agenda. Between items 2 and 3 there will be a 10 minute executive session and under the Administrator's Report will be an additional report on the Resource for Families Book. A motion was made to accept the changes to the agenda (M/S Stevens/Gonzalez unanimous).

**PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS** - Mr. Ketchel presented a letter from Quizno's in Moses Lake asking that the Board waive a pre-opening fee. The owner felt that they were unjustly charged a fee for a service that was not performed. Mr. Ketchel explained what was involved in a pre-opening inspection which includes: looking for changes in the menu, were there any changes to the kitchen facilities and assuring that workers have current food worker cards. A pre-opening inspection was conducted as well as a routine inspection on December 6, 2010. After discussion a motion was made to deny the request (M/S Stevens/Gonzalez - unanimous).

Another letter was received from the Moses Lake Elks Lodge who was charged with a re-inspection fee. They requested the fee be waived. Due to having unlabeled spray bottles and a worker without a food worker card, a re-inspection was warranted. One week later, another inspection was performed where violations had been corrected except for the unlabeled spray bottles. This violation triggered another re-inspection in which the penalty was assessed.

The Lodge explained that the bottles had been removed but somehow had returned. The cleaning crew has been replaced and assured the District that they strive to maintain a standard of excellence in all of its affairs.

Mr. Stevens stated that we need to be consistent in how we treat all the establishments. Ms. Schultheis also said that they should not be given special treatment and it could be construed as gifting of public funds if the fee were to be waived. It is also not fair to the other taxpayers who are assessed the fees when applicable.

A motion was made to deny the request (M/S Sands/Stevens - unanimous).

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of November 10, 2010 were approved as written (M/S Gonzalez/Schultheis – unanimous). The Commissioners and Mr. Sands abstained as they were absent last month.

A motion was made to end the public meeting at 7:27 p.m. and go into executive session for union negotiations expected to last 10 minutes. At 7:37 the meeting was extended another 5 minutes. The public meeting was re-opened at 7:42 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Jeff Ketchel

**Ordinance 2010 – 5 (2011 Budget)** – Severe budget cuts continue at the state level. The cuts affect the local level as well. Consequently, the District's revenues have been reduced by \$97,000 and the expenditures have been reduced by \$123,000 as well to prepare for the future.

The Ryan White fund which funds the HIV/AIDS Case Management work was one half of what we were expecting. The city contributions are lower than anticipated as well.

Also in anticipation of further cuts, the Community Public Health Manager position has been put on hold. Ms. Schimke will continue as Program Facilitator and the Communicable Disease nurse and a Health Educator will increase their duties. This will be on a trial basis for 6 - 12 months.

This will allow Mr. Ketchel to spend time in Environmental Health evaluating how the work is done, are the fees adequate, etc.

Dr. Brzezny said this is the lowest budget in 10 years. Some see this as a time to re-design and the possible dismantling of public health. There will most certainly be changes to public health in the future.

Mr. Ketchel informed the Board that to date, the Pertussis outbreak has cost the District more than \$38,000. Staff has been visiting schools, medical providers, following up contacts, etc.

Ms. Schultheis thanked the staff for the work they have done. Mr. Gonzalez inquired if the fees could be raised. This is one of the issues that Mr. Ketchel will be addressing. The District will continue to conduct their business as best we can without it affecting people's health.

A motion was made to adopt Ordinance 2010-5 (M/S Schultheis/Gonzalez - unanimous).

**Washington State Suspension of Rule Making** - Governor Gregoire has imposed a state suspension of rule making which means there will be no new WAC's. They regulate such things as state food and sewage regulations which the Health District can be more stringent in their inspections, but not more lenient.

**Video Conferencing** - The equipment is now installed in the Moses Lake office. Training has been conducted and the system has been tested. It was funded by **Federal Pandemic Flu dollars** the state and it is intended to increase meetings through the video conferencing, rather than have agencies travel to cut back on expenses. Other agencies will also have access to the equipment.

**Thermometer Distribution** - 15,000 thermometers were ordered to be distributed to childcares and schools. Mr. Ketchel distributed some thermometers to the board members.

**Resource for Families Guide Books** - The 2010 English edition have been received. Still in printing are the Spanish and Russian books. They have been distributed to such places as migrant daycares, BBCC, Salvation Army, Grant Co. Housing, American Red Cross, GTA, etc.

**COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT** – No report

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT** – Jerry Campbell

**Monthly Report** - The board received the monthly report for November food inspections.

Mr. Campbell reported that all 14 residences that were hooked up to the lagoons in Royal City have completed new septic systems. The Lagoon was slated to be shut down at the end of this year because it was too costly for the Bureau of Reclamation to re-build.

**HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT** – Dr. Brzezny

**Pertussis Update** - To date, there have been 26 cases with 16 confirmed and the others listed as probable. Pertussis is difficult to eradicate and the highest rate of cases occur in infants. Vaccine is available in the form of Dtap and Tdap is expected to continue into next year.

**Influenza Update** - There have been positive rapid tests reported in Grant County. There are currently outbreaks in South Carolina and West Virginia. Immunizations are recommended for those 6 months and older. It is not mandatory in schools. Influenza is the #1 killer in the country with regards to infectious disease.

**West Nile Virus** - There has been one human case of West Nile Virus that has been confirmed in Grant County. The patient is now recovering.

**Other Communicable Disease Updates** - The monthly notifiable conditions report had been distributed to the Board. There are currently no active TB cases.

## **VOUCHERS**

The vouchers for the period ending November 30, 2010 totaling \$132,778.28 (#1 - #23 totaling \$125,234.03 and #24 - #43 totaling \$7,544.25) were approved (M/S Stevens/Sands – unanimous).

**OTHER BUSINESS** - Dr. Brzezny presented Mr. Sands with a certificate of appreciation for his 3 years of service on the Board of Health. We appreciate his dedication and service to the Board.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the City of Quincy has approved \$2/per person for their city contribution to the District for 2011.

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. (M/S Swartz/Carter – unanimous).

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Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

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Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer