

GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse
P.O. Box 37
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-6060



HEALTH DISTRICT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH
January 9, 2008
7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mr. Wanke with the following members, staff and guests present.

MEMBERS

Mark Wanke – Ephrata
Jon Lane – Moses Lake
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek
Gerald Sands – Electric City

Keith Anstine – Quincy
LeRoy Allison – Commissioner
Richard Stevens – Commissioner
Cindy Carter – Commissioner

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Peggy Grigg – Administrator/PH Director
Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Manager

Jerry Campbell – EH Director
Jim Whitaker - Attorney

ABSENT

Tony Massa - Warden

GUESTS

Beverlee Black, Health and Nutrition Educator for the GCHD

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 12, 2007 were approved as written (M/S Allison/Kelby – unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

BOARD OF HEALTH

January 9, 2008

Page Two

Mr. Wanke welcomed new board members, Mr. Jon Lane from Moses Lake and Mr. Jerry Sands from Electric City.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN – A motion was made to nominate Mark Wanke as Chairman of the Board (M/S Allison/Stevens) Mr. Lane moved nominations be closed and to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Wanke. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made to nominate Keith Anstine as Vice Chairman of the Board (M/S Kelby/Stevens) who moved that nominations be closed and to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Anstine. The vote was unanimous.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – A motion was made to elect Mr. Stevens, Mr. Allison and Mr. Wanke for the audit committee (Stevens/Lane – unanimous).

PERSONAL HEALTH REPORT – Peggy Grigg

Health and Nutrition - Mrs. Grigg introduced Beverlee Black, Health and Nutrition Educator for the Health District who presented a program for wellness in the workplace. She had some handouts for the Board and encouraged them to participate as well as getting others to do the same.

The program presented was to make your state the healthiest state in the nation. It is a national campaign and effort to improve our country's health – one state at a time. If the District has the Board's support and their participation it will help our chances to obtain any grants that are available as well as having the documentation that they support wellness in the workplace.

Ms. Black went over the signup procedure, etc. and encouraged members to keep track of specific accomplishments related to health. A healthy news roundup weekly paper is available to obtain via e-mail. A handout was also distributed that showed the preliminary 2008 state policy priorities which included Healthy Eating and Active Living which supported wellness in the workplace.

Each member received a magnet that was titled "Cover your Cough – Wash your Hands".

Dr. Brzezny suggested each board member present this at their city council meetings and workplace. He stated that they are leaders in public health and could present this program or perhaps adopt an initiative regarding this issue.

Mr. Wanke said there is a group of walkers in Ephrata that meets at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In inclement weather, they walk in a school.

Mr. Stevens stated that this was a good idea and that they would look into it.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Food Inspections – The food inspection reports for December had been distributed to the Board.

BOARD OF HEALTH

January 9, 2008

Page Three

A total of 85 inspections were conducted.

Mr. Sands inquired as to how the inspections point system worked. Mr. Campbell explained the process and Mr. Sands was also given an inspection sheet which showed how many points each violation earned.

Mr. Wanke told the new members that they were welcome to accompany an employee while they do food inspections.

Peat Fire in Wilson Creek – A meeting was held today in Wilson Creek regarding a peat fire that has been burning underground on private property between Wilson Creek and Marlin. It originally started in August and was believed to have been extinguished. In October it was discovered that it was smoking again. The area has been set aside for wildlife habitat as well.

The Fire Department is concerned because they do not have the resources to put out the fire.

This creates a hazard for various reasons. It is not known how deep the peat goes, and the fire erodes the peat underneath the ground. So if someone happens to cross the area they could possibly fall in and obtain burns or other injuries due to the fall. Another concern is the particulates in the air.

The intent is to develop a plan that can be submitted to the state Fire Marshall's office in hopes that work can get started quickly while the resources are available, and before fire season.

Sam Lorenz, Emergency Management Director, and Scott Mortimer from Wilson Creek were also in attendance.

Request from Restaurant – Mr. Campbell received a call from a restaurant that had received a total of three (3) re-inspections; two (2) of which a fee was imposed for a total cost of \$370.00 (\$185 for the 2nd and 3rd re-inspection).

Mr. Campbell said the first routine inspection was done in September with a re-inspection following (no charge for the first re-inspection). In December, the second routine inspection was conducted with a second and third re-inspection taking place resulting in the penalties totaling \$370.00.

The establishment requested a solution omitting the fee for the 3rd re-inspection, due to a financial hardship on the establishment. The establishment has suggested that instead of paying for the second \$185 could they (employees) attend the 4 hr. food class which costs \$10 per employee.

He also explained the food ordinance policy regarding re-inspections.

A motion was made to allow the waiver (M/S Stevens/Allison – discussion). Mr. Allison inquired as to whether the violations were due to employees or mechanical problems. Jerry read the inspection reports and they showed that it was due to the employees only.

Mr. Allison's expressed concern as to whether the 4 hr. food worker class would remedy the issues at hand.

BOARD OF HEALTH

January 9, 2008

Page Four

Mr. Whitaker recommended that if the Board wished to grant the request the Ordinance should be amended to give them the power to do so. He suggested two ways to handle the situation. One way is to give the establishment a credit for each employee who attends the class (which could go against their second re-inspection fee) and the other solution would be to give them an extra 90 days to pay the fee. Since the fee has already been assessed, to forgive the fee could become a “gifting” issue. However, we do not want to put the establishment out of business, and if they are willing to obtain more education in order to serve food properly we want to help them achieve that goal.

Next month an amendment to the food ordinance will be presented with the above mentioned items. Mr. Stevens amended his motion to include the alternatives of the 4 hr. food class with credit going towards the assessed fee and also having the payment period being extended to 90 days if the establishment demonstrates that it is a hardship to pay the fee all at the same time.

Dr. Brzezny reported that there were 42 second re-inspections, 13 third re-inspections and 3 fourth re-inspections.

Other alternatives regarding this issue were discussed.

The vote was taken and it was unanimous with the amendment to the motion.

HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Salmonella – The investigation has continued. After cross linking different areas, two specimens have been submitted for testing.

Campylobacter – This case was linked to unpasteurized milk. Samples from the dairy involved were taken today from the USDA. Ms. Carter asked if the owner was aware. Mr. Campbell said they were aware now because of the testing that took place today.

Dr. Brzezny will not be present at the February Board of Health meeting.

Mr. Wanke inquired about an Othello address appearing on the inspection reports. It is an establishment located in Grant County that has an Othello address.

TB Update – Two specimens from the active case have recently come back negative which indicates the medication is working. Mr. Allison wondered how much longer the time frame would be for the treatment of this patient. Dr. Brzezny estimated at total of 9 months of therapy, if improvement continues.

Influenza - Dr. Brzezny stated a few cases of Influenza B have been reported which no cases of Influenza A occurring. The flu season generally stops in March but it is still not too late to receive a flu immunization. It takes two weeks to build up the immunity. Recommendations are for people under 18 and over 50 yrs. old to receive the immunization. The intranasal vaccine was widely used this year especially in the Ephrata School District. People between the ages of 2 – 49 qualify for this.

BOARD OF HEALTH

January 9, 2008

Page Five

Mr. Stevens inquired as to whether or not the Health District was still administering the flu shots. The District still has the vaccine available and has clinic on Monday afternoons with other arrangements possible.

There has been sporadic activity regarding the flu throughout the state.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending December 31, 2007 totaling \$147,773.20 (#1-#4 totaling \$130,069.41) and (#5-#64 totaling \$17,703.79) were approved (M/S Kelby/Allison/– unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS –

Public Health Partner Awards were presented to:

Michelle in Medical Records at the Moses Lake Clinic for helping with copies of History and Physicals or Labs when needed;

Dana Fox, Medical Assistant at the Mattawa Community Medical Clinic for her help with the recent Pertussis outbreak.

Dr. Brzezny again welcomed the new board members and briefly explained their roles.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. (M/S Anstine/Lane – unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2008 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