

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

July 9, 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

Mark Wanke – Ephrata
Tony Massa – Warden
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek
Cindy Carter – Commissioner

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

STAFF

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

Jerry Campbell – EH Director
Jim Whitaker – Attorney

ABSENT

Jon Lane – Moses Lake
Peggy Grigg – Administrator/PH Director

LeRoy Allison – Commissioner

GUESTS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 11, 2008 were approved as written - (M/S Anstine/Carter– unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

PERSONAL HEALTH /ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –

Mrs. Grigg was on vacation and Dr. Brzezny will report later in the meeting.

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Food Inspections – The Board received a copy of the June food inspections. The goal was to complete half of the routine inspections for the year which was nearly accomplished with approximately ten (10) not being completed.

Septic System Ordinance Proposal – The Health District has been allowing the homeowner to install their own septic system as long as it was a gravity system, not pressure dosing. In 2007 when we adopted the state rules and we re-wrote our own Health District Ordinance, this part was omitted. Mr. Campbell is requesting that the Ordinance include this restriction. A pressure dosing system is much more complicated and if not installed correctly, there will be considerable expense for the homeowner to correct. It also will require staff to make more frequent trips to inspect the system while being installed, whereas when a licensed installer does the installation, only one trip is made for an inspection.

Mr. Stevens inquired as to the cost to the homeowner to have the system installed by someone other than themselves. Mr. Campbell was not quite sure, possibly \$5,000. He also inquired as to whether there is a manual available for the homeowner to guide him through the process. Mr. Stevens is concerned about taking away the homeowner's right to install his own system.

Dr. Brzezny stated that by having it done by a licensed installer the chance of failure is greatly reduced which impacts public health. Mrs. Carter reaffirmed that a designer would still have to design the system before any installation would be done.

Mr. Campbell has, in the past, allowed the homeowner to take the installer test which then allows him to install his own system. The cost of the test is \$80.00.

Dr. Brzezny stated that the problems would arise later on, rather than have an immediate impact if installed incorrectly.

Mr. Campbell proposed an option that if the homeowner demonstrated an ability to install their own system, and be willing to pay more in fees, (since this would increase the number of times staff would have to visit the site), then they would be allowed to install pressure dosing systems.

Mr. Stevens definitely would like to provide an option besides the one being presented tonight.

After more discussion, it was decided to modify the language in the Ordinance to allow a homeowner to install a pressure dosing system which would probably include taking the installer test and increased fees. The fee Ordinance will also need to be changed.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing next month to modify the language to allow homeowner's to install their own system if certain criteria is met as well as changes in the fee Ordinance (M/S Stevens/Sands – unanimous).

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HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Dr. Brzezny stated that he would check WAC 246-272A to ensure that this change would be allowed. Mr. Whitaker will also review the changes requested. Another question to be answered is whether the homeowner would become a certified installer after passing the exam.

Pertussis - Dr. Brzezny was informed by staff today of a positive case of Pertussis. We usually have several cases a year which usually occurs in infants that have had no immunizations. This infant has been diagnosed at Children's Hospital and the Health District will continue the investigation.

This is the third case this year in Grant County. Sometimes 500 people need prophylaxis but usually our average is 50 contacts per case.

Measles Update – The total number of cases is 19. As of July 13, if there are no more cases, then there is no chance to link any cases to the current outbreak. There is always a possibility that other cases could arise that is not linked to our current situation.

The total cost to date from April 28 – June 30 is \$135,643.00 which is almost 7% of our budget. Approximately \$26,000 is an indirect cost that has been spent on vaccines which will come out of our reserves.

The exempt staff has put in \$15,000 worth of work which they have not been paid for. Dr. Brzezny stated that this is a lot to ask of them, in addition to giving up vacations, but there are not many options when our staff level is low to begin with. There were approximately 368 additional hrs. of their time that was spent on the outbreak. Dr. Brzezny wanted the Board to be aware of this and offer any comments, suggestions, etc.

Calls regarding patients with rashes have increased since the outbreak. There have been approximately ten cases which have been tested because of the possibility that they could have the disease since sometimes it presents itself differently.

Atlanta Trip – Dr. Brzezny reminded the Board of his upcoming trip to Atlanta. The Health District has applied for a person that the CDC could send to us for a two year rotation. These individuals already have an MPH in Public Health and are getting an advanced degree at the CDC. Out of 170 applications we made it to the second step and have now reached the point where Dr. Brzezny will interview two applicants who are interested in our proposal. If we are successful, the costs to the Health District will be minimal.

Dr. Brzezny is also hoping to meet with others regarding measles. They are interested in visiting with us since we are one of three in the U.S. where outbreaks have occurred.

Dr. Brzezny mentioned that the United Kingdom is a marker of what could happen in our country. In the last ten years, there has been a push to decrease vaccinations because of their fear of chemicals, mercury in the vaccines (which is no longer the case). In the past six months there have been a total of 530 cases of measles reported in the U.K. which could potentially become very problematic worldwide.

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TB Update – There has been one more active case of TB reported. Currently there are two (2) active cases and one has been dismissed this year. Hopefully we will be dismissing another one soon.

Mrs. Grigg will have a quarterly report next month for Personal Health.

The Health District has hired two nurses recently replacing the ones who left during the measles outbreak.

Budget – Dr. Brzezny pointed out that the reserves have become less and less each year especially this year with the measles outbreak.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending June 30, 2008 totaling \$189,983.65 (#1-#4 totaling \$131,614.17) and (#5-#71 totaling \$58,369.48) were approved (M/S Sands/Anstine – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS – None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. (M/S Massa/Carter – unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for August 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