

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

March 11, 2009

7:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS

Jon Lane – Moses Lake
Tony Massa – Warden
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek
Carolann Swartz – Commissioner

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

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Peggy Grigg – Administrator/PH Director
Jerry Campbell – EH Director

Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Mgr.
Jim Whitaker – Attorney

ABSENT

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Bruce Reim – Ephrata

GUESTS

Birdie Hensley – Electric City

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 11, 2009 were approved as written (M/S Lane/Sands – unanimous).

PERSONAL HEALTH /ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Peggy Grigg

Program Prioritizations – Mrs. Grigg went over the program prioritizations that had been sent to the Board last week. It was broken down into legislatively mandated; high priority non-mandated; moderate priority non-mandated; and non-priority non-mandated sections. The grid also showed what percentage of the budget was used for the programs as well as how much of the District’s discretionary funds were used to cover some of the costs.

The District could possibly receive some stimulus funding but that would not arrive until later on in the year.

A BARS report was also distributed which could be cross referenced with the prioritization grid. Another report sent to the Board was regarding local health jurisdictions budget reduction strategies which Mrs. Grigg received at an Administrator’s meeting last week.

These reports are for the Board to review for future reference in our strategic planning process.

Dr. Brzezny pointed out that most of the programs that we administer are not self-supporting. Approximately a year ago, the Board indicated which programs they thought were important with some being mandated and others non-mandated but high priority in our community.

Mr. Lane verified that revenues that were received from grants could only be used for those specific programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Food Inspections – The food inspections for February were distributed to the Board. A total of 70 inspections were done, partially due to the fact that sewage applications have decreased.

Revised Fee Ordinance – Mr. Campbell informed the Board that the state will no longer provide hard copies of the Group B water system applications to be given to the public. They have replaced the hard copies with a CD. Mr. Campbell would like to propose a couple of additional fees to the Fee Ordinance. The public will be able to download the application from our website or we can send them a copy of a CD for \$5.00 or a paper packet for \$20.00. Mr. Campbell requested that a public hearing be held next month to adopt the fee ordinance. The public hearing for this month was not advertised so a motion was made to hold a public hearing next month to adopt the revised fee ordinance for both the solid waste fees and Group B application fees (M/S Massa/Lane – unanimous).

Waiver of Double Fees – Mr. Campbell informed the Board that he had received two letters from food establishments requesting that they be relieved of a double fee that was imposed because their

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permit fee for 2009 was received after the due date. Mr. Campbell explained the policies which includes an additional 30 days in which the establishments have to pay to avoid a double fee (permits expire December 31) and most businesses pay before the deadline.

One business changed ownership and did not pay within 30 days of the transfer. The manager was called the last week of January to inform them of the consequences of non-payment and they neglected to inform the owners. They have yet to be billed for a pre-opening inspection (\$170.00) which Dr. Brzezny proposed that possibly this fee could be eliminated. Mr. Stevens did not think any fees should be waived, which was also the consensus of the other Board members.

The second business was considering closing due to lack of business. When they realized they would stay open and sent in their payment, it was post marked on February 2 and received on February 4. This was a hardship for them to pay the double fee and requested a waiver of the second payment.

No action was taken on either request.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Chicken Pox – There are currently nine (9) cases of chicken pox in five (5) Moses Lake schools. There are linkages in the cases between the schools. Dr. Brzezny reported that chicken pox peaks in the winter and two vaccines are considered being fully immunized. Currently only one vaccine is required for school enrollment but the requirement is changing to include two vaccinations as they enter school. Incubation period is 21 days and you can be infectious before you begin to exhibit symptoms. No vaccination is given to infants before the age of 1 yr. Chicken pox is very labor intensive to investigate as well.

Influenza Update – Dr. Brzezny reported that influenza is in full swing in Grant County. However, it is milder than last season. Across the nation, there have been five deaths in children, none in our area. Both influenza A & B have been reported. Only three strains are in the vaccine, so one type of B was not included which happens to be less severe. Some patients have had both A & B strain. Dr. Brzezny reported that immunization rates have increased this year as well.

Pneumonia immunizations were suggested this year for smokers who were 19 yrs. old and older, asthmatics, people over 65 and children. Dr. Brzezny feels that pneumonia immunizations will be more universal in the future, like the flu immunizations.

Pertussis – Adults should receive a booster immunization by age 65. This can be in the form of a Tdap immunization which is Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis.

Kittitas County has reported 15 cases of Pertussis. The infected persons were at a wrestling tournament in Tacoma in which approximately 30,000 people attended. This is a very hard disease to detect. Pertussis is common in our state and over 600 cases are reported each year.

There have been serious reductions in staff in Kittitas County and with only one nurse, there are no resources to do a proper investigation.

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Thirty percent of the cases are due to mothers passing it on to their infants. To be fully immunized, there are a total of four shots given. Mrs. Grigg told the Board that a few years ago, a baby died in Grant County from Pertussis.

Dr. Brzezny also reported that measles is still being reported in England and approximately 4,000 deaths from cholera in Zimbabwe have occurred.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending February 28, 2009 totaling \$143,051.76 (#1-#4 totaling \$127, 132.63) and (#5-#49 totaling \$15,919.13) were approved (M/S Stevens/Lane - unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS –

Public Health Partner Awards – Awards were presented to the following for their support of the Grant County Oral Health Coalition:

Renee Stevens
Laura Cromer, RN, School Nurse
Steve Fuhriman, Office of Anesthesia Dental Services
Deb Nuss, RN, MSS Program
Paige Waters, WIC Program
Dr. Harder, Moses Lake Family Dentistry

Mr. Campbell reported that an error occurred in his E.H. quarterly report last month and he has since made the correction regarding the District commenting on the quantity of water.

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. (M/S Land/Sands – unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

Keith Anstine, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer