

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

October 12, 2011

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
Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake
Richard Stevens – Commissioner
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek

Cindy Carter – Commissioner
Mark Wanke - Ephrata
Carolann Swartz – Commissioner

STAFF

Jeff Ketchel – Administrator
Pattie Anderson – Admin. Services Mgr.

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Michael Wyman – HD Attorney

ABSENT

Tony Gonzalez - Quincy
Shawta Sackett - CPH Mgr./Epidemiologist

Troy Ritter – Electric City

GUESTS

Lauren McLaughlin - Grant Co. Journal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 14, 2011 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Wanke– unanimous).

VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending September 30, 2011 totaling \$133,143.93. (#1 - #11 totaling \$120,325.57 and #12 - #58 totaling \$12,818.36) were approved (M/S Stevens/Carter– unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS – Mr. Ketchel addressed a request from the George Truck Stop & Subway. When a food establishment has new owners, the current license is non-transferable which is stated on the permit. This establishment took ownership in January 2011, but failed to obtain a new food establishment permit. Consequently, if a new permit is not obtained within 30 days, a double fee is imposed. They are also responsible for paying a pre-opening fee. They have also received two billable re-inspection fees. To date, they have only paid a portion of their fees. They are requesting that we re-evaluate the double fee portion of their bill.

After discussion, it was determined that the Board needed additional information before rendering a decision. A motion was made to defer a decision until further information could be received (M/S Carter/Swartz – unanimous).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT - Jeff Ketchel

Composting Variance Public Hearing Announcement - Lawrence Farms is requesting a variance with regards to their composting permit. They have been composting since 2003 and would now like to sell their product to outside users. A variance is required to disallow the leachate collection and stormwater separation. Our Ordinance requires a Public Hearing when such a request is made.

The evaluation shows that there is no detectable difference in the soil at the site and soil in nearby background areas. The District has already received concurrence from the State Department of Ecology to issue a variance and much of the rest of the application will be complete with minor changes in the next week or two. This operation and site specific characteristics are very similar to another site that was approved about a year and a half ago.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing next month to make a decision regarding the composting variance (M/S Wanke-Stevens – unanimous).

September Food Inspections – The September food inspections were included in the Board’s packets.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

Pertussis – There have been 7 additional cases in September which brings the total to 57. In addition, 580 contacts have been made which includes interviews, etc. which is very time consuming. Currently, a new plan on how to address the issue in schools is being discussed.

Influenza Plan – There has been media coverage regarding influenza along with digital thermometers being distributed to schools and childcares. We’ve also been working with the medical providers who provide care to pregnant women.

Royal City Flu Clinic – Once a year, the District has to conduct an exercise for the Emergency Preparedness Plan. This year, we will be providing a flu clinic in Royal City on Wednesday, October 26 from 4 – 7 p.m. Some funding is being provided by the Hospital District so that the public only has to pay \$5.00 per immunization, for both adults and children.

A Spanish radio station will be broadcasting live during the clinic also.

Healthy Communities - The kickoff event in Ephrata was held last month with more than 50 people attending. They set up different task forces and are beginning to set up meetings.

They are also working with the schools in providing “Walk to School Day”. One was recently held in Ephrata and Moses Lake and another one will be held on October 20 in Quincy.

ASSESSMENT REPORT - Mr. Ketchel

Grant County Trends Website – Mr. Ketchel provided a handout that was printed from the Grant County Trends website. Mr. Ketchel is on the steering committee for this website which provides very valuable information. The handout Mr. Ketchel provided was regarding teen pregnancy which happens to be very high, both state and nationwide.

Mr. Ketchel requested that the Health District contract with the Grant County Economic Council for \$500 to help fund the website for 2012 which supports Health District activities. After determining that the funds were available in the budget a motion was made to allow the \$500 expenditure (M/S Swartz-Curnel – unanimous).

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

Community Transformation Grant – We have been notified that we have received the grant but are still unaware of exactly how much money the District will receive. Of the 5.7 million requested, 3.2 million was granted. Grant County Health District is one of eleven counties to receive funding. They are currently working on determining how the funds will be distributed. We will be working with Yakima County and we will also need one FTE to manage the grant.

From now until the end of the year, we will be setting up contracts as well as working on other issues, such as pass through monies. We will receive \$15,000 to help fund these activities through the end of the year.

Budget Update –The Governor has asked agencies to cut another 5 – 10% out of their budgets. Mr. Ketchel provided a handout which included proposed cuts. Currently, none of these proposals affect the Health District. The Department of Health is trying to protect the flexible funding which is vital to most agencies.

October 12, 2011

Letters and Contracts – Letters and contracts to the cities and towns were sent out last week requesting a \$2/per resident contribution.

2012 Budget – Mr. Ketchel will be bringing the 2012 budget to next month's meeting.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Cost of Pertussis – Besides Pertussis still increasing, so is Chlamydia with 31 cases being reported in September. On the downside, however, is Campylobacter.

Dr. Brzezny presented a short, informative slide show regarding the cost of Pertussis outbreak from August 2010 to September 2011. As of the end of September 2011, \$102,000 has been spent on the outbreak. This is approximately \$2,000 per person and 7-8% of the budget.

Influenza – Influenza has been reported in the Seattle area. The ingredients in the flu vaccine this year are identical to those of last year.

Foodborne Illness Update – Campylobacter cases went down to only 4 cases being reported in September. Raw poultry, dairy products, and babies are suspected to be the carriers.

Mr. Wanke inquired as to how long a flu shot was effective. Dr. Brzezny stated that usually for 6 – 9 months and possibly 12 months. A little known fact is that 20% of people who have influenza do not show symptoms but can be spreading the virus.

Executive Session - An executive session was held at 7:59 to last 20 minutes regarding union negotiations. At 8:19 the meeting was extended by 10 minutes. The open meeting was re-opened at 8:29 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. (M/S Swartz/Carter – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Pattie A. Anderson, Clerk of the Board