

**CLEVELAND COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
MARCH 10, 2009**

**SHELBY,  
NORTH CAROLINA**

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The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland County Health Department.

Board members present: Joel Spragins, Bill Marsh, Libby Shipley, Robert Miller, Robert Blackburn, Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, and Michael Alexander

Health Department staff present: Denese Stallings, Marty Allen, Rodella Gold, Sam Lockridge, Jimmy Hines, Dorothea Wyant, Sheila Wellmon and Charlene Parker

Bob Yelton, County Attorney, was present.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Chair Spragins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Teresa Carpenter, a student from Gardner-Webb University, was recognized. Robert Miller gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:**

**There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Board of Health meeting, motion was made by Robert Blackburn, with a second by Bill Marsh, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

No citizens registered to appear before the Board.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2007/2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

Jimmy Hines presented the 2007/2008 Cleveland County Health Department Annual Report. Copies of the report were distributed. Statistical data for the 2007/2008 fiscal year was presented by Mr. Hines and is accessible to the public on the Cleveland County Health Department website. The Annual Report will be placed on the Health Department website for access by the public. Several corrections were noted that will be made to the report before posting. Highlighted events and programs contained in the report were identified and information shared. Chair Spragins and Denese Stallings thanked Mr. Hines for his work on the Annual Report.

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010**

Denese Stallings stated that the proposed 2009/2010 Cleveland County Health Department budget was a flat budget, as directed by the County Manager. The County Manager and Board of County Commissioners will be making decisions about how to balance the County's budget.

The decisions that the Board of Health made in January this year helped position the department to be able to make a flat budget that will help the County. Ms. Stallings stated that after hearing Governor Perdue's State of the State Address, she felt there will be additional funding cuts. The proposed budget has absorbed the 9.5% increase in the employee's health insurance premiums. This insurance increase alone is approximately \$77,000. Grant fees have increased slightly. An increase in funds for the School Health Program from the Cleveland County School System in the amount of \$16,000 has been requested. Other general proposed increases were identified. The costs of vaccines have increased. A new vaccine, 17P Preterm Labor, is being administered to maternity patients.

A proposed pump system fee in the Environmental Health Program is included. Environmental Health is mandated to inspect sewage pump systems every five years. If passed, this fee will generate approximately \$12,000 in revenue for the 2009/2010 year.

The proposed budget contains the transfer of funds for a maintenance position from the County General budget to the Health Department budget. The Health Department has a maintenance person that has been funded through the County General Maintenance budget in past years. This move of funding was made at the direction of the County Manager.

Factors that have affected the proposed budget were discussed. Further information was shared.

Budget changes include a reduction in carryover funds; the loss of a CODAP services position and the loss of grant funding for teen tobacco and health disparities programs, which affects four positions. Staff hired in the positions funded by the teen tobacco grant were aware that their employment would end when grant funding ended. Further information was shared.

The proposed Animal Control Program budget includes an increase in animal control fees. Ms. Stallings stated that the cost of operating the Animal Control Program has doubled in the last several years. The budget contains an increase in animal control enforcement and awareness at the direction of the County Commissioners. A free Rabies Vaccination Program will be held in May 2009. Information about the Spay/Neuter Awareness Program was given and will be continued next fiscal year.

Information was shared regarding the EBI (Euthanasia By Injection) Bill. If this proposed legislation passes, the animal control budget will need to be increased by approximately \$90,000. This funding has not been included in the proposed budget. Further information was shared.

The Solid Waste Program budget was presented. Ms. Stallings stated that the Solid Waste Program is being affected by the economy and is experiencing a decrease in the amount of waste going into the landfill, which affects revenue.

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The Solid Waste Disposal/Landfill Program plans to provide more litter prevention, recycling and enforcement education. The budget contains costs to purchase two defibrillators to keep at the landfill to use in case of emergencies. Information was presented about new legislation that requires the County to be responsible for helping to remove abandoned mobile homes in the County. Solid Waste Enforcement Officers will be working with the Building Inspection Department to determine if a mobile home is abandoned, either through public health or minimum housing code. Legislation has appropriated \$1,000 to move each mobile home. The proposed budget also includes \$7,000 for education and training equipment to be used in the conference room at the Self-McNeilly Solid Waste Facility. The landfill and animal control staff will be able to utilize this equipment to obtain required certifications without making out-of-town travel. The proposed budget contains funding to replace two old dump trucks.

The Manned Sites and Collections budget contains an increase in utilities and funds for maintenance and repair of aging recycling centers.

The State passed a Disposal Tax of \$2 per ton for waste going into the landfill last year. The proposed budget includes a projected payment to the State in the amount of \$268,100 for this tax. The County will receive a minimal amount of this funding back from the State.

The County Employee Health and Wellness Program and the Pharmacy Program is saving the county money. Health insurance costs increased only 9.5%. Further information was shared. Ms. Stallings stated that this program was meeting a great need for County employees. Preventive health education programs are being conducted by the Health Department Health Education Staff for County employees.

Grant funding agencies do not have as much funding as they have had in the past due to a decrease in investment returns. Ms. Stallings stated that there may not be as many grants available this year due to the economy.

Ms. Stallings has met with the County Manager and they feel comfortable about the proposed budget. The proposed budget shows a total increase in county dollars of \$15,212.

Ms. Stallings stated that the Health Department needs to continue to do a good job with what we have and keep staff trained to respond to public health needs. If the State or County cuts additional funds, programs and services will have to be prioritized.

**Motion: Libby Shipley moved, with a second by Robert Miller, that the Cleveland County Board of Health approve the proposed 2009/2010 Cleveland County Health Department budget, as presented, and send to the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners for their consideration of approval. Motion passed unanimously.**

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Robert Miller, along with the entire Board, commended Ms. Stallings with the task and good job she has done and expressed their support of the Health Department's efforts. Ms. Stallings stated that the County Manager is committed to help keep the County operating at the level it is now.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Rodella Gold presented the following budget amendments for consideration of approval:

ITEM NUMBER ONE: Funds are available in the revenue account from the City of Shelby and City of Kings Mountain for the purchase of an Animal Control Program truck. The truck that is being replaced is a 2000 Dodge 2500 with over 162,000 miles and in poor mechanical condition. A request was made to budget \$25,978.00 for the purchase of a F250 Ford truck.

ITEM NUMBER TWO: The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allocated \$10,009.15 to the Cleveland County Health Department for inspections of food and lodging establishments. A request was made to budget the funds in the Environmental Health Department (541) account for operating expenses and salaries/fringe of existing Environmental Health Specialist positions.

**Motion: Robert Blackburn moved, with a second by Michael Alexander, that the Board of Health approve the budget amendments as presented, with a correction in Item Number Two to the word "establishments". Motion passed unanimously.**

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**Robert Blackburn reported the following:**

The National Association of Local Boards Of Health (NALBOH) Newsletter was included in the Board packet and Dr. Blackburn encouraged members to review.

The Association of North Carolina Boards of Health (ANCBOH) is following 20 different Legislative Bills that have been introduced. Further information was shared.

The Report of North Carolina Task Force on Prevention of Childhood Obesity has been completed and submitted to the Legislature. The report contains a lot of recommendations that have no costs associated and the task force hopes these will be considered.

Catawba County Health Department passed accreditation and Robert Blackburn was privileged to present the Department their Accreditation Award on February 25, 2009. Dr. Blackburn heard many positive comments about the Cleveland County Health Department while there.

Dr. Jeffrey Engel has been appointed as the North Carolina State Health Director.

Former Cumberland County School Superintendent, Bill Harrison, has been sworn into a new seat and elected Chairman of the State Board of Education and CEO of the Education Department. Further information was shared.

Robert Blackburn was appointed to the National Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) Fees and Incentives Work Group. The group will work on a fee structure for the national voluntary accreditation process and incentives for health departments to encourage public health departments to meet accreditation. The first meeting will be in Alexandria, Virginia on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated that it is the feeling that accreditation will be implemented nationally. North Carolina is the only State that mandates public health accreditation by law.

Dr. Blackburn will present a paper, "Advocating to the Health Decisions Makers", at the National AAHPERD Convention in Tampa, Florida on April 2, 2009.

#### **House Bill 2 – Prohibit Smoking in Work and Public Places**

Discussion was held about the position of Cleveland County Legislators on House Bill 2. Ms. Stallings attended a Legislative Breakfast and shared Legislator's comments from the event.

#### **North Carolina Minority Health Conference**

Robert Miller thanked Denese Stallings for recommending he attend the North Carolina Minority Health Conference and shared information about the conference.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chair Spragins adjourned the Cleveland County Board of Health meeting.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Denese R. Stallings, Secretary  
Cleveland County Board of Health