

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, July 28, 2015
5:00 PM

Present: J.J. Tibbetts, MD, Audrey Murphy, Joe Van Deurzen, Harold Pfothenauer, Richard Schadewald, Karen Sanchez

Excused: Susan Paulus Smith

Staff Present: Chua Xiong, Rob Gollman, Ann Steinberger, Patti Smeester (note taker)

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Audrey called the meeting to order.

2. Approval / Modification of the Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

Schadewald / Van Deurzen

MOTION CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2015

MOTION: To approve the minutes

Audrey suggested all references to "stuff" be changed to "materials."

MOTION: To approve the minutes as amended

Van Deurzen / Schadewald

MOTION CARRIED

4. Shirley Wind Farm: Status of the review of documents by Health Director

Chua thanked the Brown County Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy and Duke Energy for their submission of documents for review. Chua indicated all documents have been recorded according to the date they have been received. She stated that if there were any concerns that documents have not been received, anyone is welcome to review the binder. Chua stated that for all email communications, we have made all attempts to record a reply date to the email that it was received. Chua wanted all to know how serious she has taken the Wind Turbine issue and how much thought and time she has invested into researching the topic which includes going beyond to see what other research she could find. She states she has been fortunate to obtain an education that has taught her the methods on how to conduct creditable, evidence based research which was a requirement in her graduate work. This education will serve her well. Chua hopes to be finished by August at the earliest. The next step in moving forward is to strategize a plan with the Board of Health. She thanked everyone for their patience.

Audrey asked about the meeting on August 25, 2015 and wondered if it was going to be another update. Chua stated she hoped by that time that she would be finished reviewing the literature and that the Board of Health and Chua can proceed on strategizing a plan.

Mr. Schadewald asked Chua if she was still accepting materials. Chua stated she is still accepting materials. Dr. Tibbetts asked if individual can submit up to August 25th and Chua indicated they could submit.

Mr. Pfothenhauer stated that through conversations and listening to what people are saying he wondered if the Board of Health was aware that there is big money being given to the wind turbine project going all the way up to the Upper Peninsula, Northern Peninsula, coming down through Menominee/Marinette through Oconto and going across to Minnesota. The conversations that he has heard are that the federal government is providing 425 million dollars. Harold does not know if this is true and has not validated. Audrey wondered if Harold was talking about the transmission lines and Harold indicated it was wind farms and transmission lines. He indicated that was the way it was explained to him. Harold is going to get some documentation.

Mr. Schadewald stated with the materials he received today, it seemed like there are a lot of medical studies in Europe. He suggested to Chua to check with the United States CDC to see if they have done any medical studies. Chua indicated that they did not but they should. Audrey indicated the Board of Health asked DHS for an epidemiological study in 2012 and that the Governor put \$250,000 into the budget this year, but this was removed. The governor gave the PSC the ability to go back and review some of these issues and take another look at them again. Chua stated her contact at the state said it is status quo.

Dr. Tibbetts wanted to point out the study from Portugal. There are two cases where the courts found in favor for the plaintiff and some turbines are being removed. The other is still in Falmouth and that case is still pending. There are five or six plaintiffs in that situation in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Audrey asked Juliana Ruenzel if she had any comments and she did not.

Audrey stated the meeting on August 25th will be on wind turbines only.

5. Budget Proposal 2016.

Chua presented levy changes for the Board of Health (BOH) to review. In regard to salary, there is a change of -\$7,467. It reflects the new sanitarian's salaries as they were hired at a lower hourly rate. In regard to fringe, it reflects an increase of \$4,908 due to new employees being hired and taking full benefits. In operation and maintenance we moved \$15,000 from levy to the grant side to offset some costs on the grant side. Our chargebacks increased but this was offset by an increase in our levy. Mr. Schadewald asked Chua if she knew what the 50% increase reflected. Mr. Schadewald will inquire of Technology Services through the Administration Committee. In regard to professional services Chua stated the reduction is because we eliminated the alarm system. The devices do not work and in order for us to replace and update, we would have to re-wire the building so we decided not to renew. We have a duress system in place and also our cameras in place. In medical supplies, we moved some of the dollars to office supplies. Our financial administrators indicated that those charges should be in office supplies.

In regard to revenue, the increase in levy was to offset our indirect chargeback. In regard to public health services, the reduction reflects a decrease in anticipated revenue for medical assistance billing. The decrease in intergov revenue reflects a decrease because we do not do adult Hep A or Hep B. Flu vaccines have gone down as well. We are not seeing adult population because of access to various stores, such as Walgreens. The Fund Transfer account was reduced because we moved HIV program funds from the levy side to the grand side.

Chua reviewed the performance measures as to what it costs us to perform services. Rob Gollman explained on the rates and fees, there was an omission last year as to what was published and Rob has corrected on the sheet as well as some typographical errors. Chua explained that the blood assay in 2015 was at \$92 but in 2016 the State is working with the lab for a discounted rate.

Audrey asked about food trucks and if we are checking those. Rob indicated we don't license all the food trucks that come into the area. The City of Green Bay ordinance has brought in a lot of mobile units from a lot of jurisdictions. We must inspect them and unfortunately we were not able to raise the "other permit inspection fee" which is currently at \$45.00. We spend a lot of time on that and are technically bound to honor these other licenses but we can't raise the fee. Chua indicated we are trying to collaborate with the City of Green Bay so information can also be given to food trucks that they also have to be licensed by us. Rob indicated in the City of Green Bay we have a lot of events and we do not have a place with infrastructure to support them. We don't have adequate power at most of them. We don't have facilities to dispose of waste water properly; we don't have fresh potable water hook ups for all these units. Rob said it is a challenge. Mr. Schadewald asked what the City needs to have to grow these ideas. Rob said the City needs festival grounds with adequate restrooms, fresh potable water, adequate power and semi-permanent facilities with refrigeration and wear wash facilities. Audrey asked for a better explanation of the fees we charge. Rob said the \$45.00 is what we charge someone we do not license, someone who has a State license or for example someone from Outagamie County. If we give them a license, we charge them an inspection fee for those out of our jurisdiction. Their license fees vary depending on what they are doing.

Chua discussed the 2016 new department initiative exploring our aging population. We attended a presentation looking at our population and stats show by 2030 over 25% will be 65 years and older. We want to work with Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and pool our limited resources so we can collectively find ways to still provide services for this growing population. Devon with ADRC will try to organize a meeting with Erik from Human Services and Chua to discuss a 3-5 year strategic plans addressing the aging population.

Mr. Schadewald asked if there was anything that Health did not get in their budget that the Board of Health should know about. Chua indicated wage increases are an area for improvement, but pointed out Troy and Chad are already working on this issue.

MOTION: To approve the budget as presented.

Tibbets/Van Deurzen

6. Environmental Division updates

Rob directed the BOH to his handouts. Rob indicated we just started our 2015 - 2016 licensing year. We have been up trending our revenues for the last 5 years. It is difficult to predict as establishments come and go. We look at a 20% turnover rate per year.

We had a sanitarian resign last month and we have been recruiting. We have asked Human Resources to repost twice. We are having difficulty attracting qualified candidates because the salary is not competitive. Candidates need a bachelor's degree with a background in biology. Ideally, someone with an environmental major. Discussion regarding other possible incentives. Mr. Schadewald asked if we go to schools and talk about being a sanitarian. Rob indicated that we have a sanitarian that goes out and gives talks. Rob has received a request from a teacher to come back again this year. Rob also talked about the upcoming merger between the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection-Food Safety Unit and the Department of Health-Division of Food Safety and Recreational Licensing. A year from now we are going to have a big discussion about all our licensing and fees because everything is going to be very different. We may lose tattoo and body piercing establishments which were under the umbrella of Department of Health Food Safety and Recreational Licensing. That is going to be transferred to the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). This department also regulates manufactured home communities, mobile home parks, which we have a contract with them to inspect. This year they doubled the reimbursement fee and we weren't able to increase our license fee accordingly. If DSPS takes over tattoos, we are going to have to look at the contract closely because if the

reimbursement rate is basically half of everything we get, Rob doesn't think it will be worthwhile for us to do it. Chua talked about her concerns if Public Health does not inspect tattoo business, this sets up the possibility of infectious disease outbreaks. Mr. Schadewald asked "Why was this changed?" Rob indicated we have a lot of questions but we do not get concrete answers. This will be in effect in July of 2016. Mr. Schadewald stated that if we felt this was a potential hazard he would recommend a letter from the Board of Health and Green Bay legislatures stating we see a problem with this. He recommends that the Board of Health in February, March or April send a letter to the legislatures about our concerns. Audrey asked Rob to give an update at the next Board of Health meeting.

Rob would like to explore in the future getting approval to have a fee for human health hazard condemnations. We are required to go to a residence or an abandoned building and write orders to correct a human health hazard or condemn it. We don't have anything right now and they are very time consuming. Investigations usually take days to complete. Mr. Schadewald indicated that if we wanted to set a fee by November it could be added to the budget for 2016.

7. Correspondence

The correspondence that was not mailed to the Board of Health members prior to the meeting was distributed.

8. Director's Report

Chua handed out the Beyond Health – Community Health Improvement Plan. This is required of the Health Department every three to five years to identify health issues in the community. Chua indicated the assessment is done with health care providers and community partners. Chua described the four issues identified—alcohol misuse, oral health, mental health, and adequate, appropriate and safe nutrition.

Chua also handed out the 2014 Annual Report. Mr. Schadewald inquired about goal setting and if we ever utilized students from schools. Chua stated we are working with the medical college as they want future doctors to come to the health department to do clinical rotation here and maybe at Aids Resource Center and other community resources. We have nursing students that also come through. As far as volunteers, we do not. Mr. Schadewald indicates there are probably things students would love to do. Chua is open to having volunteers and having them participate in our coalitions.

Ann Steinberger provided a follow up to the last BOH meeting on the TB disease. Jean is still investigating the contacts. The second round of testing will be starting. There are about 10 people in our County that we have done testing with. Ann reported on cyclospora, which is caused by a parasite, it is not spread directly from person to person. People are infected by consuming contaminated food or water. Most cases in the US are associated with recent travel or consuming fresh produce particularly imported. There are 8 cases in Wisconsin with the onset dates last week of May to the first week in June. The Brown County Health Department was a key player in the investigation and worked closely with the State DHS and CDC. Nursing staff conducted the interviews, Environmental Health worked with the local establishments; samples were collected and sent to FDA for testing. Based upon the investigation it was determined it was from cilantro and part of a national outbreak. FDA yesterday did post an import alert. Ann reported that Bellin has a new assay test that tests for 22 different types of Enteric Pathogens. We have exceeded 2014 year end numbers already by 17% in reportable Enteric infections. The last thing Ann talked about is the flu vaccine. We receive our vaccine for children through our state contract and there is a delay in delivering the flu mist. They are anticipating there will be 40% shipped out by October. We do have flu clinic scheduled for children in October and we are hoping we will have the vaccine at that time but there could be a delay.

Audrey asked the status of the HIV case. Chua indicated it is in the hands of the District Attorney and we have no further update as this is now a criminal prosecution.

9. All Other Business Authorized by Law

Dr. Tibbetts stated there are 83 complaints at this point; about 20 have good neighbor agreements that are on the edge as far as making any comments. This involves 23 families. 21 people have had their homes tested and they have all been positive for wind turbine signal. Those homes were those that requested to have them tested. Mr. Van Deurzen asked who does that testing. Dr. Tibbetts indicated Susan Ashley and Dave Enz. They have been trained in using the micro barometer. Chua asked if there was someone else that could do the testing. Chua indicated this can be viewed as biased since test subjects are taking the recordings. If this is something we proceed on with, we can be attacked later for using individuals who have symptoms. Chua understands that anyone can be trained on the equipment but using test subject will be viewed as biased. Dr. Tibbetts indicated they are active in Fond du Lac and Jim Meuller is being trained or is trained. Chua asked if he was part of the Shirley Wind Farm. Dr. Tibbetts indicated he was not.

MOTION: To depart from the regular order of business.

Tibbetts / Van Deurzen

MOTION CARRIED

Bill Meindl, 125 W. Mission Road, asked "shouldn't that information have been brought up when the agenda item was discussed when there was a representative here from Duke, instead of bringing it up at the end of the meeting?" Dr. Tibbetts apologized that he didn't bring it up at that time.

Jim Vanden Boogart, 7463 Holy Mor Road, Greenleaf WI. Jim indicated the unit consists of micro barometer which has no controls on it and it is plugged into a data logger. The data logger has a power switch and a GPS that captures your location and displays it on a screen locked onto that GPS. There is nothing on this that the operator can control at all. Once it locks on the GPS you flip a switch that says "begin logging readings" and that is the only control on it. When finished you turn the switch off. The whole thing is self-contained. There aren't any buttons that you can control. You just put it in a room and try not to create extraneous noises to muddy up the readings.

William Acker, Acker & Associates, 3217 Nicolet Drive states that device is reading pressure pulsations that occur above barometric pressure and below barometric pressure. That information is being collected by this machine and people who run the machine cannot affect those numbers. Those numbers are then being fed to Richard James for evaluation. From Mr. Acker's experience, for some acoustical engineers with a lot of experience they have come to the conclusion that the health problems are related to these pressure pulsations that occur within seconds (high pressure-low pressure-high pressure-low pressure) and believes that is what is bringing on a lot of the health problems. He states medically trying to prove that association has been very difficult. It has been accepted that these pressure pulsations also occur in automobiles with open windows causing car sickness. Mr. Acker states everybody agrees that car sickness does exist. The auto industry has tested this and has found ways to modify their cars to prevent those pressure pulsations. Those pressure pulsations are also accepted by the cooling tower manufacturers. Those manufacturers accept that it can cause problems so they sell equipment that is especially made not to produce these pressure pulsations. Even though the auto industry and cooling industry are making modifications to prevent this, nobody has successfully found a great way to prove the medical evidence where we can say definitively that we have a medical test that proves that without asking the person "Are you sick?" Richard James is 100% convinced that these pressure pulsations are causing trouble as well as the European countries who have already written codes to prevent those

pressure pulsations. Mr. Acker wanted the board to know that medically we haven't found a definitive way, like a brain scan, that says you are definitely nauseous.

Sandy Johnson, 1893 Wayside Road, Greenleaf, WI says she attended EAA talked with a flight instructor from Missouri who grew up in Wisconsin. Sandy stated the idea that infrasound and low frequency noise is a new thing because of the industrial wind turbines is false. Sandy continued that Rick James worked for GM, and that is how he got into this. The modifications you make to a car or to a large truck hauling loads is because you don't want that driver being exposed to unnecessary noise. The same is true of being a pilot in an airplane that can emit these types of noise. Sandy brought up the topic of industrial wind turbines with the flight instructor. He wasn't surprised at all. He said anyone being trained as a pilot knows you have to wear special safety gear on your ears because if you are a pilot and you get your hearing affected by that noise you are done. Sandy stated this young man was aware of and knows about the modifications that aeronautical engineers have to make in order for somebody to be safe while flying a jet plane. This is not a foreign thing it is just industrial wind turbines are a newer thing creating the same problems.

MOTION: To return to the regular order of business

Van Deurzen / Pfothenauer

MOTION CARRIED

10. Adjournment / Next Meeting Schedule

MOTION: To adjourn meeting

Van Deurzen / Pfothenauer

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 25, 2015 at 5:00 PM