

BOH12082020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hancock County Board of Health was held on December 8, 2020 at 4:00PM by conference call due to the pandemic. Chair Plesa called the meeting to order and proceeded with roll call. Present were John Plesa, Anthony Palavis, Sam DeCapio, Nicole Glass, and Sandy Haspel. Dr Rhody and Jackie Huff were present from the health department staff.

Chair Plesa ask if the members had an opportunity to review the minutes of the October meeting and the financials. Chair asked for any discussion or objections to the minutes and financials. Hearing no objections, the Chair moved to approve the minutes and financials. The financials will be filed for audit.

No Public Comments.

Old business:

New business: First item of new business was the nomination and voting of Chair and Vice Chair. Anthony Palavis nominated John Plesa as Chair and Sam DeCapio seconded the motion. John Plesa accepted the nomination. The Board then voted all in favor of John Plesa as Chair. John abstained from vote.

Second, Nicole Glass nominated Anthony Palavis as Vice Chair. Sam DeCapio seconded the motion. Anthony accepted the nomination. A vote was taken with all in approval of Anthony Palavis being the Vice Chair. Anthony abstained from this vote.

The 2021 meeting dates where presented. All members were fine with the presented dates. The Board voted unanimously approving the dates and time for 2021 meetings. Jackie will post the times on the Web site. It will be determined if in person or telephonically at the time depending on the pandemic.

The Chair then addressed the increment pay policy and motioned to reauthorize the implementation for this year. Unanimous approval was made on the motion. The increment pay policy is approved.

The Chair then motion to approve a 2% pay increase for the health department employees. The chair expressed to the other members how the staff have been working above and beyond throughout the year with the pandemic response in addition to the other duties. The motion was then approved unanimously.

Board thanked Dr Rhody for all his extra help during the pandemic.

Staff reports:

Morgan Watson is the new LPN and has started helping with the case investigation and contact tracing while being trained on other aspects of the health department duties, the National Guard is helping with case investigation to help through some of the calls and contacts. The department then has to do the follow-ups of the patients.

COVID is consuming the days for contact tracing, case investigations, testing. New guidelines provided by the CDC and the state for the quarantine time for the contacts are in place for the return from quarantines.

Many phone calls to answer questions and complaints throughout the day. Environmental calls have been mainly about businesses not enforcing mask wearing.

Vaccine planning daily and expect to receive it mid-month. The distribution will be done at different levels set by the state. Hospitals and Long-term care and Federally qualified centers will receive their own vaccines for distributions of their facilities.

Mountaineer was asking about allowing smoking again. Per conversation with the Board they were told that the BOH would not support that at this time with the elevated infection rates in Hancock County of COVID-19. Nicole Glass stated that she thought that we should revisit the smoking issue when Covid rates go down.

John Plesa then asked what the reason for two different color code maps. Jackie Huff expressed she still was not clear on the difference or reasons for two. The schools are published on Saturdays for the following weeks. The schools color code system is for in person learning, extra activities, and sports. Long term care facilities also have their own maps.

No further discussion, the next meeting will be on February 9, 2021 at 4:00PM. Motion was made by the Chair to adjourn the meeting. Second by Sam DeCapio. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for Dr. Chris Rhody,