



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES June 20, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (All Attended In Person):

T. Hills, DVM, President
W. Simmons, Vice President
R. Kapur-Pado, DO (Arrived at 7:34 a.m.)
T. Leary, FNP (Departed at 8:59 a.m.)
T. Nytch, DVM
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
W. Standinger III, Legislator (Arrived at 7:37 a.m.)

ABSENT:

None

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary
P. DeWind Esq., County Attorney (Arrived at 7:39 a.m.)

GUESTS:

Katie Wait, Public Health Educator and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (Departed at 8:04 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:32 a.m. by Dr. Hills.

PRSENTATION: Ms. Vroman introduced guest speaker Ms. Katie Wait who presented the Tioga County Public Health COVID-19 After Action Report (AAR). Distributed copies of the full report to members and shared electronic presentation. Ms. Wait discussed the process for creating the COVID AAR from its beginning in the summer of 2023 and finalizing it by January 2024. It was needed as a means to capture Public Health's pandemic response. Information was gathered from staff survey responses, internal facilitated discussion responses as well as facilitated discussions with external key informants. Results found showcased Public Health's strengths (communication, case investigation, contact tracing) and areas for improvement (enforcement, testing, plan/ICS use) through the pandemic, and with that formulated an Improvement Plan with corrective actions to be able to bridge the gap and see how Public Health can do better next time.

The Board commended Ms. Wait on her work in this effort. Discussed various frustrations felt during the pandemic as well as the "digital divide" within the community and how to handle in the case of another pandemic. The Board complimented Public Health on the running of vaccination clinics, which Ms. Vroman attributed to Ms. Wait as she was primarily responsible for coordinating.

Brief discussion of why the County did not have testing early in the pandemic. Ms. Vroman explained that Public Health did not have the correct testing license at that time. Currently have correct licensure.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes: No discussion; motion to approve prior minutes made by Ms. Leary; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.
- Enforcements: Ms. Vroman provided additional information on enforcements. Explanation provided for difference between low, medium and high-risk establishments and how often they are inspected.
- Rabies Order: Dr. Hills sent revised order to the Board electronically prior to the meeting. Mr. Simmons commended Dr. Hills efforts in revising the order. Ms. Vroman noted that she had a recent conversation with another individual who was concerned about the rabies vaccine killing pigs, adding that public comment may be received on this. Dr. Hills stated that Tioga County is

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not unique in asking that pigs get vaccinated, confirmed with the State Department of Agriculture and Markets that is the State Fair's protocol as well (all livestock are to be vaccinated).

- Motion to approve revised rabies order made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Dr. Kapur-Pado, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved. Prior to signing the approved order, it will be posted on the Tioga County Public Health website for fourteen days for public feedback. An email will be provided to be able to respond to.
- Dr. Raftis noted that he had a conversation with Tioga County Fair Board representative who was very pleased with how approachable the Board of Health was on this matter.
- Sanitary Code Update: Ms. Vroman, Mr. Scherrer (Director of Environmental health), Mr. Kopalek (Supervising Public Health Sanitarian), and Board of Health subcommittee members (Mr. Simmons, Dr. Nytch, and Legislator Standing) have had two meetings so far to be able to review Article 1-6 of the Sanitary Code. Ms. Vroman noted that no significant recommendations have been made so far. In Article 2, had questions for County Attorney DeWind. Will be working on Article 7-15 and then will be complete with the review. Ms. Vroman inquired if the Board would prefer that the subcommittee bring the fully revised Sanitary Code to the Board for adoption or to send portions of the Sanitary Code in advance for review. The Board agreed that receiving sections in advance to review would be better. Ms. Vroman will compile what has been revised so far and put in a format to easily read and will send to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: All seven Board of Health members were in attendance as well as Ms. Vroman, County Attorney DeWind and Ms. Reigelman. Motion made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Ms. Leary, to move to Executive session to discuss a matter which will imperil the public safety if disclosed at 8:24 a.m. Motion carried. Motion made by Mr. Simmons to adjourn Executive session at 9:20 a.m. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Post Executive Session-Ms. Vroman recommended issuing an order after receiving more information. Either the Board of Health or Public Health Director can issue. Would have to call an emergency meeting session of the Board, which in By-Laws states must have 14 days' notice. County Attorney DeWind noted that notice can be bypassed under certain circumstances, added that the Public Health Director can get Board by-in by email for ratification or in person at next meeting. The Board shared support for calling emergency session if needed.

INFORMATIONAL:

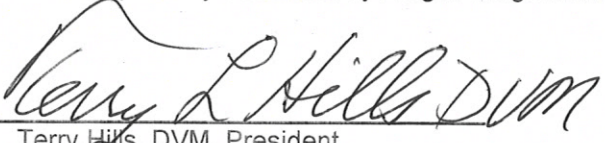
- In Public Health News- Article 28 changes and certificate of needs to come, Ms. Vroman will share information when received.
- Staffing- Mr. Scherrer is in his new position and new Public Health Educator and Office Specialist III have started.
- Administrative Hearing is scheduled for July.
- Have been meeting with community partners for Strategic Plan, including the Mayor of Waverly, Southern Tier Aids Program, Director of A New Hope Center and new Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- Held a Management Retreat to be able to discuss and look at the future of the department.
- In Progress Tasks-
 - Looking at the efficiency in rabies investigations and providing rabies post exposure prophylaxis (RPEP). Public Health Nurse has been doing outreach to emergency departments to educate on protocol for RPEP. Seeing an uptick in rabies cases and an increase in people needing RPEP. Need to spread education to the public on this as well.
 - Very close to accepting electronic payments.
 - Transitioning to electronic forms to be more user friendly.



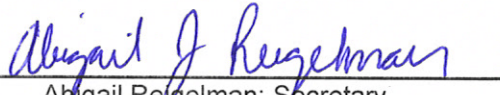
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Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.



Terry Hills, DVM, President



Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved July 18, 2024

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Tioga County
Health Department