

FINAL MINUTES

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Community Room, Jackson County Courthouse

201 W Platt Street, Maquoketa, Iowa

Board Members Present: Sara Davenport, Nin Flagel, Doug Latham, and Dr. Gerald Bybee.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Khristian Becker

Staff Member Present: Elizabeth Townsend Jackson County Health, Ruth Eltrich
Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Dr. Gerald Bybee at 7:03 p.m. and a quorum was established. A sign-in sheet was distributed. A Zoom meeting was launched. There were no people attending via Zoom. Those in attendance were:

- Julia Furne, ASAC
- Jen Warren, Public Health

MINUTES: Approval of meeting minutes from September 19, 2023. A change was requested in the minutes regarding the wording for safety checks. Motion by Davenport, seconded by Latham, to move minutes approval, with the wording change, for September 19, 2023. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Agency Reports

ASAC – Julia Furne, DFC Grant Project Coordinator

The first MAT – Medication Assisted Treatment Clinic was held in Jackson County. The clinic will be monthly for now, but the goal is to have it held twice monthly. The clinic is being held at Maquoketa United Church of Christ. Furne updated on DEA HIDTA training. It will provide data on overdoses in the county. Jackson County is the second county in Iowa to take advantage of this program. We are not funded for opioids under the new grant, our numbers are too low. Furne discussed the rising use of inhalants among children. Furne reached out to area businesses about moving the spray paint to prevent items being stolen for the purpose of inhaling. Furne is working on a mental health grant.

Community Health – Jen Warren, RN

Warren updated on billing issues with the Covid vaccine. Individuals are having difficulty getting the vaccine because the pharmacies do not have the codes for billing. There are a shortage of clinics and pharmacies that are giving pediatric vaccines. Discussion followed regarding the billing aspect of the vaccine. Pharmacies need to apply for a medical number. Update on covid vaccine clinics dates and times.

Updated on flu vaccines. In Jackson County 393 children were given free flu vaccines. This year paper and computer applications were available, and there was much better success.

Warren is working to restart an Emergency Response Committee. Discussion followed. The committee is designed to put a plan together in case of emergencies. Several invitations were sent out via email. The committee should be made up of different representatives such as the police department, public health, environmental health, emergency management, and others. The committee would meet 2-4 times per year.

Environmental Health – Elizabeth Townsend

Townsend provided an Update on Grants to Counties. There will be a Private Well Stewardship Program in April. Update on advertising for water testing. Elizabeth will be attending a conference in January for continuing education credits. This training will be reimbursed through Grants to Counties.

Townsend provided an update on creating a permit with Schneider Geo Permitting. An update was provided on septic system installations. Townsend discussed possible changes to rabies program. Discussion followed. Townsend discussed a rewriting of the rabies ordinance. Discussion followed about the possibility of adding a fine for animals that are not vaccinated. Clarification is necessary to make sure that cities within Jackson County can have the same standards. Most dog bites occur in Maquoketa and Preston. Animal bites are not reported to the state.

Unfinished Business – Application for Approval of Wastewater Effluent Discharge onto Jackson County Right of Way

An update was provided on the application to discharge wastewater onto the Jackson County Right of Way. Most counties do not use this type of discharge, they require an easement to the neighbor's property and the wastewater is discharged there. There has not been a need for this type of permit. Townsend's recommendation is to not go forward with this application.

Motion by Flagel, second by Latham, to no longer pursue the Application for Approval of Wastewater Effluent Discharge onto Jackson County Right of Way.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business-

Dry Flush and Incinerator Toilets-

Townsend presented information on dry flush and incinerator style toilets. There are cabins in the county that are off grid. The owners would like to rebuild. The land is accessible only by boat. The cabins reportedly do not have water. Jackson County Health Department is requiring the owners to have a way to dispose of waste. Discussion followed regarding dry flush toilets. The Health Department required permit fees for the cabins. The dry flush toilets are not in Iowa Code. Discussion followed about whether an ordinance is needed, a resolution, or a motion to allow the dry flush or incinerator style toilets. The toilet needs to be non-chemical because they are in a flood plain. There is no way for the county to go out and inspect. Discussion followed about creating binding agreements with homeowners to be allowed to have a dry flush toilet. Binding agreements are done on a case-by-case basis.

1. The dwelling must have a sewage system.
2. Sewage systems with retained waste such as a chemical toilet or outhouse are not acceptable.
3. Incinerator or dry flush type toilets are acceptable in cabins without running water or a well. If a sand point well were to be permitted the incinerator or dry flush type toilet would no longer be permitted for use and another sewage system would need to be approved.
4. Incinerator or dry flush type toilets may be installed in the cabin or in a detached accessory structure. Structures must be permitted through the Zoning Department.
5. Incinerator or dry flush type toilets must be used for individual cabins and cannot be shared.
6. Incinerator or dry flush type toilets are acceptable in cabins that are not accessible by road.
7. Homeowners are required to submit information regarding the product they purchased.
8. Homeowners must supply the county with contact information in case of inspections.

We would track these special permits by a spreadsheet to keep track of changes.

Motion by Flagel, second by Latham, to authorize the department to confer with board member Davenport regarding wording for a binding agreement that will be reviewed by the County Attorney.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

COLA Wage Increase-

Townsend presented a request for a COLA increase. Budgets are being worked on and have been submitted already. Townsend has not had a work session with the Board of Supervisors regarding the budget for the Health Department. The Board of Health approves the increase in wages for Townsend. Townsend put in 3.5% for COLA. Last year a 6% COLA was granted, and some individuals received stipends. The compensation board met yesterday and it's a 5% recommendation for COLA for the elected officials. Townsend is not an elected official, and COLA comes from the Board of Health. COLA is in the 3-4% range.

Motion by Davenport, second by Latham to give a 4% cost of living adjustment.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

2025 Environmental Health Budget-

Budget will be presented to Board of Supervisors. Discussion followed regarding how the Board of Supervisors conducts budget work sessions. All the Environmental Health budget changes are based on projections for the year to date.

Motion by Latham, second by Davenport to approve the budget as presented for the Board of Supervisors review.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Variance Request – 8036 163rd Avenue

Townsend presented a variance request for a well located at 8036 163rd Avenue. The well will be shallow. The required setback is 200' from the nearest feedlot. This well will be approximately 110' from the nearest feedlot. If granted this variance will require a well protection plan. There is currently one well feeding the house and the feedlots. The new well will be double cased. The current well will be plugged. The concern is that the current well is old and may run out of water. The permit is good for one year. A shed will be removed and the new well will be drilled in its place. The new well would be safer for the aquifer than the current well. The Health Department can require an annual water test for this well. Discussion followed about making sure that the water is safe for human consumption. The Health Department limits property owners to three water tests per calendar year. If Grants to Counties funds are available, the cost for the water test will be covered. If Grants to Counties funds are not available, the water test will be at the property owner's expense.

Motion by Flagel, second by Davenport to approve the variance as presented with the condition that the water is tested yearly and that the water test will be conducted by the Jackson County Health Department. The cost will be covered by the Grants to Counties funds, if Grants to Counties funds are not available, the water test will be at the well owner's expense. If corrective action is needed the well owner is responsible for the cost of the test kit and any repairs and well chlorination.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Latham, seconded by Davenport to adjourn the November 21, 2023 Board of Health Meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Adopted: January 16, 2024