

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday December 19, 2022 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held via Zoom - Tama Co. Annex Building

Due to heightened potential public health risks related to the COVID-19 virus, all Tama County Board of Health meetings will be held electronically through ZOOM or by phone conference until further notice.

Present:

Sally Custer – via Zoom	Chris Behrens	Jolynn Harger
Lori Johnson	Sherry Parks, PA-C, via Zoom	Mick Ferris – via Zoom
Bill Faircloth – via phone	Ashley Steven – via Zoom	Shannon Zoffka
Robert Boley – via Zoom	Heather Bombei – via Zoom	Dr. Hineman

Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chair, at 12:02 p.m.

Sherry Parks read the following statement:

Per Iowa Code, Chapter 21.8, Electronic Meetings, the Tama County Board of Health will conduct meetings via zoom or by phone conference due to circumstances where such a meeting in person is impossible or impractical.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Agenda as presented. Sally Custer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Ashley Steven and Robert Boley were present at today’s meeting to discuss septic issues on their properties.

Ashley bought her property in 2018. She was told her Time of Transfer Inspection passed with zero problems. When she tried to sell the property in November of 2022, there were multiple problems. Ashley said that she found out 45 minutes prior to closing on the property that it didn’t pass due to only being a 400 gallon tank. It was also not water tight.

She doesn’t believe the issue should be her fault to fix. She trusted the Tama County Sanitarian to do the job correctly. It appears it should not have been passed in this condition back in 2018. She is looking at \$15,000 to \$20,000 to fix and bring this system into compliance. The condition of the tank is the same as when she bought the property. Ashley would like to come to an agreement amicably with Tama County.

Robert Boley, is present at today’s meeting to discuss his property that he purchased in Garwin in August. He got a letter from Chris after he closed stating that his septic system needed to be repaired or replaced. The 2019 inspection report on the property says the house is on rural water. Upon inspection, it appears the tank is full of roots. He is not sure how this system passed inspection in 2019. Estimates place repairs at \$15,000 plus. He would like some compensation to help with the repairs.

Sherry Parks said the Board would have to do further investigation to see what they could do.

Ashley asked if we had the 2018 Septic Inspection report on her property. Shannon Zoffka replied that we do not.

Robert said that the location of his septic was deemed too close to a well. Chris said that onsite wastewater needs to be a part from a well.

Chris said that during a property closing that every piece of property transferred that has onsite wastewater has to be inspected. The Contractor has 10 days to give Chris the report to pass or not pass. He is working on educating the attorneys on how Time of Transfers work, so that houses don’t close before his final inspection is completed.

Both Robert and Ashley thanked the Board for their time, and wondered when they might hear from the Board.

At that time, both Robert and Ashley left the meeting.

Sherry asked if both of these inspections were passed by the previous Sanitarian. Chris replied that they were.

Shannon said that Ashley submitted a request for reimbursement with the County today. The statute of limitations for insurance is 2 years. This was done in 2018.

Chris said that inspections were done on both properties, the assumption was made that the inspection was good, but the report was not completed. Chris has talked to both attorneys. Ashley's sale closed even knowing the septic system had failed inspection. Mr. Boley got a letter about the system failure after the closing.

Chris said that is apparent that there was a problem with the prior inspections on the systems.

Chris said that the paperwork for Ashley's system does not have anything to indicate pass and fail. The tank is estimated to be 100 years old, it is only 400 gallons. The size is too small. There are 10 different problems with the current system. Because the paperwork did not make a determination of pass or fail, the property was allowed to be transferred.

On Robert's system, Chris said a new system was permitted in 2019. The system that was installed was not the one that was permitted, and it was also not installed by the Contractor that obtained the permit. The new tank was supposed to be 1,050 gallons. The old tank was still there, and the one that was installed was not the correct size.

Shannon was asked to contact the County Attorneys. She is not sure if it is Brent Heeren or the Risk Pool Attorney, but she will ask.

Micki Ferris thought we should get on this and not leave them hanging. She also felt that there was probably more than just the 2 systems with issues.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Minutes of the November 28, 2022 meeting as presented. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report:

Chris reported that there has been 4 septic systems put in since the last meeting.

Chris shared that he had gotten a call from a landowner that had a well collapse on him. It was a 50 foot drop, the landowner didn't even know the well was there. Fortunately, no one got hurt, but this is a good example of why wells that are not in use need to be plugged.

Chris will be attending the IOWWA Conference in January for a couple of days. It is held in Des Moines.

Director's Report

Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QAPI): The next meeting is in December.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): Shannon has completed tallying the surveys.

Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP): The SKIP Coalition has been generating ideas for activities for next year. Some of them are: a family fishing day, Pizza with the Police, focusing on activity and exercise for youth, and assisting families with sports equipment.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): The NIMS workbook was updated and submitted.

Human Resources: No new news.

Communicable Disease: There were no communicable disease cases in November. There was 0 animal bites in November.

Public Health: The Mobile Food Pantry served 207 households, which included 654 individuals, in November.

Coffee Talks continue through December. New topics will begin in January, with a focus on heart health and fall risk reduction.

The State Immunization Program is working on funding for vaccine storage and transport. This may include purpose built refrigerators, freezers, transport coolers, and temperature monitoring devices.

COVID: Tama County moved to a high transmission rate in late November. As of today we are still in a high transmission rate. We have had three long-term cares in outbreak status in the past month. Due to the home health mandate, the high transmission rate in the County has staff put back in masks. We will continue to mask until the transmission rate decreases, plus two weeks after it moves out of a high level.

Maternal Health Program:

Nest Class was held on December 6th. The topics were Developmental Gifts and Decreasing Stress During the Holidays. 11 families were in attendance.

Home Health:

We are preparing for a switch to OASIS E on January 1, 2023. The complexity of the patients we are seeing is increasing. They are being discharged from the hospital with more going on than in the past.

Vehicles:

We currently have 7 county cars. We had 10 in the past. They are all salvage title and are as old as a 2005. The newest is a 2014. Some of our staff drive between 900-1,200 miles a month to provide services in homes across Tama County.

Waiver: November: Four patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 4 Maternal Health Home visits in November.

Financial Report:

Admissions decreased for the month of November. Skilled Nurse visits increased. Home Health Aide visits and hours decreased for the month of November. Our revenue decreased for the month of November.

Dr. Hineman moved to approve the Financial Report. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign Contract #5885BT486, Amendment #17 for Emergency Response Multi-Year Program, extending IT upgrades (CADE Funding), until 06/30/23. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize Assistant Director/CFO to digitally sign Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Provider Quality Self-Assessment for CEO/Executive Director and BOH Chair on electronic copy. Dr. Hineman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Dr. Hineman moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to adopt NIMS as the All Hazards Incident Management System for Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023 at Noon

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant