



TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES July 18, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended In Person):

W. Simmons, Vice President
T. Leary, FNP (Departed at 8:58 a.m.)
J. Raftis, DO, FACEP
W. Standinger III, Legislator

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Attended Virtually):

T. Hills, DVM, President
T. Nytech, DVM

ABSENT:

R. Kapur-Pado, DO

OTHER(S) PRESENT:

H. Vroman, Public Health Director
A. Reigelman, Secretary
D. Scherrer, Environmental Health Director (Arrived at 8:20 a.m.)
P. DeWind Esq., County Attorney (Arrived at 8:42 a.m.)

GUESTS:

Laura Bennett, Public Health Educator (Departed at 8:21 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:30 a.m. by Dr. Hills.

PRESENTATION: Ms. Vroman introduced guest speaker Ms. Laura Bennett who presented on the Tioga County Public Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP). Ms. Bennett provided an overview of lead (background/sources of lead), a summary of the LPPP (roles of Care Coordination versus Environmental Health assessments, lead testing and monitoring in children, follow up with providers/parents, prevention techniques, remediation practices, hotspot areas in Tioga County, etc.). Ms. Bennett distributed samples of a Lead Booklet and nutritional placemats that are given to parents/guardians of children with elevated blood lead levels and presented the XRF Analyzer which is used to detect lead in paint chips during home assessments. Ms. Bennett also discussed barriers experienced including compliance in follow-up testing of children and financing remediation repairs.

The Board discussed Renter's Rights and process for remediation with landlords/homeowners, the difficulty in parent follow-up in having children tested for lead during designated timeframes, and the lack of availability of lead testing options for providers in Tioga County.

Ms. Vroman noted that it might be beneficial to complete a survey for local provider's offices for an assessment of primary care provider barriers and can look for grant opportunities.

Ms. Bennett stated that they will be applying for a mini grant through the Floyd Hooker Foundation to assist in purchasing supplies for lead remediation for homeowners (specifically for parents/guardians of children with elevated blood lead levels). Supplies include cleaning equipment, paint vouchers, and HEPA vacuums which are used to specifically capture lead dust. Ms. Vroman requested that the Board motion for Tioga County Public Health to apply for the Floyd Hooker mini grant. Motion was made by Dr. Raftis to apply for the Floyd Hooker mini grant to address the lead poisoning prevention; seconded by Ms. Leary, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes: No discussion; motion to approve prior minutes made by Mr. Simmons; seconded by Ms. Leary, all were in favor, none opposed, motion approved.



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- Enforcements: Ms. Vroman provided additional information on enforcements. Mr. Scherrer detailed the enforcement of well cap replacement and explained UV daily testing.
- Tioga Casting Property- Ms. Vroman updated the Board on recent events with the property. Mr. Scherrer took additional soil samples at the end of June and is currently still waiting on results. After sending a co-signed letter with Legislative Chair Sauerbrey requesting a site visit, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) came for a site visit last Thursday. Mr. Scherrer stated that at the site visit, the DEC was reluctant to provide any information/recommendations when questions were asked, and only referenced the initial report that was issued in 2012, stating that the site at that time was zoned as industrial, not residential.

The Board discussed next steps. Noted that the encampment is encroaching closer to the fenced in parcel which may pose risk. Should document and send letter to the DEC requesting a response to their site visit in writing and draft letter to the Village of Owego to make them aware of the current zoning violation of the site. County Attorney DeWind stated that they have made headway on finding the property owner, but establishing ownership will most likely require legal action. Dr. Raftis shared his findings on the heavy metals associated with the property/ health effects/testing options with the Board and asked that Ms. Reigelman share the document electronically after the meeting. Discussion of offering testing options, signage/making people aware.

- Rabies Order: Noted that revised Rabies Order was approved by the Board at the June meeting. The order was posted publicly for public feedback/comment for 14 days on the Tioga County Public health website and no comment was received. Dr. Hills signed the order July 8, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Sanitary Code Revision Approval-Ms. Vroman stated that the subcommittee, made up of herself, Mr. Simmons, Legislator Standing, Dr. Nytych, Mr. Scherrer and Mr. Kopalek, have officially reviewed all Tioga County Sanitary Code articles. She thanked subcommittee members for their work in revising. All revised articles were distributed to the Board electronically prior to the meeting for their review. Ms. Vroman noted that a new Article on *Air Pollution Control, Section Open Fires* has been drafted based on discussion with County Attorney DeWind and Mr. Scherrer. This additional section was presented to the subcommittee, feedback was received that warranted full Board discussion.
 - Mr. Simmons inquired if Public Health has the staff to enforce this. Mr. Scherrer stated that most burning complaints will go to the DEC first (as they do now), but with this addition we would be able to assist with chronic complaints that the DEC is not handling. County Attorney DeWind noted that this addition gives us a chance to enforce locally versus waiting on the DEC. Mr. Simmons also noted that language of "outside of a boundary of 1/8 mile of the periphery of any city or village" should possibly change.
 - Legislator Standing inquired on process for enforcing. Mr. Scherrer explained that there would be a fine attached and there would be an opportunity for a hearing.
 - Also clarified Article 2, Section 1- confirmed with County Attorney DeWind that fees for hearings cannot exceed New York State's fees, therefore the amount listed in this section will change to meet New York State regulation. However, our permit application fees can be higher than New York State.
 - Due to not meeting quorum requirements at time of this discussion, the Board was unable to make a motion for the approval of the Sanitary Code revisions.
- Fee Schedule-Ms. Vroman stated that the subcommittee agreed to remove article on fees from the Sanitary Code as they could be subject to change. Instead, they will be referred to in an addendum. After reviewing the current fee schedule, will be updating fees to correspond with necessary wage increases, and include fees for permits that are now issued (tanning, migrant farms, etc.). Plan to bring the revised fee schedule to the Board in September. Will send a revised fee schedule prior to that meeting for Board review.



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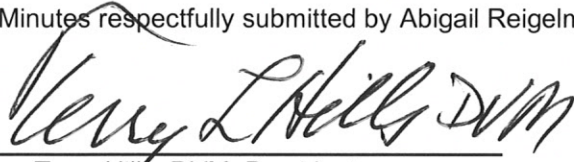
- Board members discussed and decided to call a special meeting in August to be able to vote on Sanitary Code revisions and touch base on the Tioga Casting Property. Ms. Vroman stated that Ms. Reigelman will send a meeting poll to the Board after the meeting with tentative dates/times.

INFORMATIONAL:

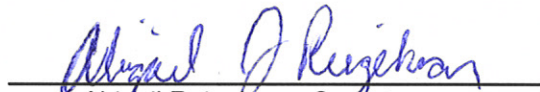
- Public Health Technician position has been posted and will be backfilling Mr. Scherrer's previous Public Health Sanitarian position in a few months in anticipation of the retirement of Public Health Sanitarian Albert Knapp at the end of the year.
- New Public Health Educator started a month ago, recruited her from Broome County. She will be taking over work in ASAP Coalition/ opioid overdose program.
- Accomplished tasks:
 - Held lead certification training for contractors for free.
 - Passed out water at the Strawberry Festival 5K
 - Yesterday, Ms. Vroman attended a B-TAM training which went over ways to prevent threats/incidents before they occur (through Department of Homeland Security).
 - Distributed annual Summer Safety Guides to all Tioga County school districts.
 - Educational outreach on tickborne illnesses.
 - Upcoming tabling events at Tioga County Fair and Sundaes at the Farm.
 - Working with Town of Newark Valley in the Creating Healthy School and Communities Grant

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Reigelman.



Terry Hills, DVM, President



Abigail Reigelman; Secretary

Minutes approved September 19, 2024

