



Macon County
Public Health

MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES
1/25/2022

Members: Mitchell Bishop, Engineer and Chair; Vacant, General Public; Vacant, Pharmacist, Nathan Brenner, Dentist, Teresa Murray, General Public; Vacant, Veterinarian; Paul Higdon, County Commissioner; Vacant, General Public; Vacant, Physician, Ellen Shope; Nurse Representative; Vacant, General Public; Michael Dupuis, Physician; Roy Lenzo, Veterinarian; Optometrist, Vacant; Members of General Public Tereas Murray, Jerry Hermanson, Jennifer Knoepp

Members Absent: Roy Lenzo and Michael Dupuis

Staff Present: Kathy McGaha, Melissa Setzer, Jennifer Garrett, Jessica Baucum, Jimmy Villiard and Charles Womack

Guests: None

Media: Jake Browning with the Franklin Press

Call to Order: Mitchell Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Welcome/Intro: Mrs. McGaha informed the Board that Carrie Pazcoguin has resigned, Melissa Setzer has accepted the position as Finance Director. Haley Arriaga has moved into the billing position and Ashley Garrison has moved into the procurement positions. Welcome the new members Jerry Hermanson as a General Public member, Jennifer Knoepp as a General Public member. Michael Dupuis has also joined the board as the Physician, and Roy Lenzo as the Veterinarian.

Public Comment:

Tracey Dogan came today to speak about the animal control ordinance, she is opposed to shortening the time an animal is held before it can be adopted out. There is also a disagreement about the reporting being anonymous. She states that she has spoke to an attorney and they can take anonymous reports and Animal Services states they cannot take anonymous complaints. She would like to know what the changes are before it goes to the county commissioners. Mr. Villiard stated that by holding animals longer they lose out on sending animals by transport to other shelters. 25%-30% of their animals are transported to no kill shelters. Mrs. McGaha advised this is for public comment only. This is not a discussion. Mitchell stated that this would go to the county commissioners and they would call for a public comment session.

Agenda Approval: Nathan Brenner made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Environmental Health update under Old Business and removing the Closed Session from the agenda. Jerry Hermanson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations: None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Nathan Brenner made a motion to accept the minutes. Teresa Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

COVID-19 Update

Jennifer Garrett will be reporting that Macon County is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 (Omicron) cases. At this time there are 683 active cases, with 98 new positive cases with additional 98 positive cases today. At this time the call center is averaging 200 plus calls a day for testing. It is taking a large number of staff to get this information loaded due to the high percentage. In addition the call center is still receiving calls to schedule the vaccine.

MCPH has received N95 masks from the state that are being given out at different locations around town. They are also giving the N95 masks out at the drive through testing tent. Ellen Shope asked about the free test that are being sent out. Mrs. Garrett stated that we have not received any of those free test.

Mrs. McGaha stated per Tom Neal at Highlands Cashiers Hospital that there are over 200 patients in the Mission System positive with COVID (Omicrom). Mrs. McGaha also stated that the School Board voted to keep mask option in the schools.

Animal Control Ordinance Update

The County Attorney is currently reviewing the ordinance. He recommends that once he has completed reviewing the ordinance it will then come back for Board of Health to vote again before it goes to the commissioners. He did ask that the format be changed due to this being commissioners' ordinance not a Health Department ordinance. Mrs. McGaha stated that before the ordinance can be approved by the commissioners there will be public hearing scheduled. This hearing will be scheduled at a different time than the meeting that the ordinance will be voted on.

Revised Meeting Schedule for 2022

The new revised Meeting schedule for 2022 was sent out to all members of the board. Last meeting it was voted that the meetings would be changed from 12 per year to 6 per year.

Ellen Shope made the Motion to approve the revised meeting schedule. Teresa Murray seconded that motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nominations for 2022
Chair and Vice Chair

Mrs. McGaha asked if anyone had nominations for 2022 Chair and 2022 Vice Chair.

Nathan Brenner made the motion to re-elect Mitchell Bishop as Chair, Teresa Murray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Nathan Brenner made the motion to elect Teresa Murray as Vice Chair, Jerry Hermanson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Health
Update

Charles Womack was present to give an update for Environmental Health. They are currently eight weeks out from the time someone turns in an application. At this time there are currently 97 pending applications, 14 complaints that have not been completed and 9 repairs that have not been completed. They currently have three active contract workers. 102 applications have been given to those contract workers in which 87 of those have been completed. They certainly need the contract workers and they are still in need of filling the vacant positions they have. Mitchell Bishop asked if we have spoken to the different colleges in the area. Mrs. McGaha stated that Jessica Baucum has been in contact with WCU, and set up to meet with them.

New Business: None

Discussion: None

Announcements: None

Next Meeting Date:
March 22, 2022

Adjournment: Ellen Shope made the Motion to adjourn. Nathan Brenner seconded that motion. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:24 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Melissa Setzer, MCPH Administration Assistant

