



## **MACON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES 11/18/2025**

- Members:** Garrett Higdon-Engineer/Chair, John Shearl-County Commissioner, Barry Breeden-County Commissioner/ Optometrist position, Dr. Roy Lenzo- Veterinarian, Cortney Patrick- Pharmacist, Dr. Matt Corbin- Dentist/Vice Chair, Angela Stone- Nurse Representative, Dr. Nathan (Don) Feibelman III- General Public, Steve Grissim-General Public, Dr. Michael Toedt- Physician, Ava Ammons- General Public.
- Members Absent:** Barry Breeden
- Staff Present:** Tammy Keezer, Christina Stamey, Lisa Browning, Melissa Setzer and Agustin Britt.
- Guests:** Warren Cabe- County Manager, Eric Ridenour- County Attorney
- Media:** Shelby Powell (The Franklin Press)
- Call to Order:** Garrett Higdon called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.
- Approval of Agenda:** After calling the meeting to order, Garrett Higdon asked to amend 4(c), nominations and appointments for Chair and Vice Chair on the agenda. Garrett asked for this to be added to the January 2026 meeting after the Consolidated Board has been created. Michael Toedt made a motion to approve the amendment. Steve Grissim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 6:19pm.
- Welcome/Intro/  
Departures/  
Recognition/  
Announcements:** Tammy Keezer announced the departure of Shelley Fountain in Administrative Services, Jessica Baucum in HR and Kathy McGaha the Health Director. Tammy recognized the new staff members. Morgan Fish in the Billing Department, Agustin

Britt with the Minority Diabetes Prevention Program and Tammy announced some new staff are in the works. Tammy recognized Justin Moffitt and the youth volleyball team for holding a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness and raising and donating \$4200.00 to MCPH. Tammy next announced that MCPH will be entering a float in the annual Macon County Christmas Parade and activities provided for the staff during their Holiday Week Celebration and Holiday Meal. Tammy invited all the board members to take part in any or all activities, if they would like. During the announcements, Matt Corbin spoke about his tour of the new Molar Roller. Matt explained what a great vital resource it is to our community and urged the rest of the board members to schedule a tour of the new unit.

**Public Comment:**

None

**1. Presentation:**

Tammy Keezer gave an update on the status of the Health Department, since she acquired the role as Interim Health Director. Tammy mentioned that she tries to touch base with people and show a presence on a daily basis as well as giving direction when needed. Tammy reported the staff is excited, invested and are great at what they do. Tammy asked Lisa Browning, our Environmental Health Supervisor, to give the board an update on the Food and Wine Festival that was held in Highlands, N.C. Lisa reported it was a smooth operation with 54 food vendors and no major issues. Lisa finished up by reporting there were currently 26 septic applications.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Matt Corbin made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cortney Patrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 6:29 pm.

**3. Old Business:**

Animal Services  
Update:

Tammy spoke about her and Warren Cabe's meeting with Dr. Roy Lenzo. Warren and Roy discussed the transition from one leadership to another, the need for a new Consolidated Health Services Director and the importance of a smooth transition. Warren felt it was a good and needed meeting. Tammy Keezer shared the challenge of the shelter's washers and dryers breaking down, with Appalachian Animal Rescue helping with laundry. Tammy wanted to recognize Appalachian Animal Rescue for their help. John Shearl brought up an email he received about feral cats and asked for discussion on the situation. Roy Lenzo explained the situation and the course of action on the matter.

Update on the Employee  
Complaint and Grievance  
Policies:

Tammy Keezer discussed the employee complaint agreement, noting that policies have been distributed and a log was created to track that every employee received the policies. Tammy also noted that the policies would be in effect until January 2026, when the consolidation takes place and the staff will then fall into the county policies.

Update on Consolidation:

Tammy Keezer updated the board on the consolidation process, noting that the Board of Commissioners voted to consolidate the health department and Animal Services effective January 13, 2026. Tammy mentioned the need to advertise for additional positions and the board's role as the nominating committee for requirements of the Consolidated Human Services Board. The new board positions will require the actual profession and will not allow subs to fill an empty position. Tammy explained there will be four positions for consumer health and one for a psychiatrist.

#### **4. New Business:**

Federal Government  
Shutdown Updates:

Tammy Keezer addressed the fact that the Federal Government Shutdown was over and that MCPH got through it with very little impact.

Department Policy  
Review and Notebook  
Updates:

Tammy explained that the need for the updates for the departments policies and notebook updates, need to be put on hold until after the consolidation because several policies will change to match the county policies. Dr. Feibelman made a suggestion to table any changes to the policies till after the consolidation.

Michael Toedt made a motion to table any policy changes till after consolidation. Cortney Patrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 6:58 pm.

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Approval for the 2026  
Meeting Schedule:

Matt Corbin made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule. Steve Grissim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously at 6:59 pm.

#### **5. Requested Agenda / Discussion Items:**

Tammy Keezer discussed with the board members their suggestions on the agenda for the December Meeting. Garrett Higdon said they would follow the required by laws and then have their annual Holiday Meal / Social.

**6. Closed Session:**

(If necessary, according to  
N.C. Statute G.S. 143-318.11)

John Shearl made a motion to go into closed session at 7:05 pm. Matt Corbin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Open Session Resumed:**

Open session resumed at 7:24 pm.

**Adjournment:**

John Shearl made a motion to adjourn at 7:25pm. Steve Grissim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting Date:**

December 16, 2025

**Minutes Recorded by:**

Christina Stamey