

**Minutes
Board of Health Meeting
Chelan-Douglas Health District
June 15, 2020**

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville and Board of Health Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present:

Jill Thompson, Mayor, Town of Waterville
Doug England, Chelan County Commissioner
Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner
Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner
Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner
Sharon Waters, Leavenworth City Council
John Sterk, East Wenatchee City Council
Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council

Staff Present:

Barry Kling, Administrator
Malcolm Butler, CDHD Health Officer
Kandis Boersema, Associate Administrator, Fiscal and Support Services;
Veronica Farias, Health Communications Coordinator
Carol McCormick, Associate Administrator, Personal Health
Hilary Knelleken, Associate Administrator, Environmental Health
Lorena Orozco, Chief Deputy Registrar, Fiscal Assistant

Public Present:

Mike Steele, State Representative
Members of the public were present via conference call, though the audio quality was very poor.

Consent Agenda

Doug England, Chelan County Commissioner, made a motion to approve the consent agenda that includes the May 2020 Board Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes, May Payroll in the amount of \$248,441.41, May Benefits in the amount of \$85,449.37, and approval of payment of 2020 Vouchers No. 20200262 to

20200318 in the amount of \$81,727.72 and the Contract Matrix including the following:

- 1. Consolidated Contract CLH18238 Amendment 14-FFY21 USDA WIC CLIENT SVS CONTRACTS**
- 2. Consolidated Contract CLH18238 Amendment 14 – FFY20 USDA WIC CLIENT SVS CONTRACTS**
- 3. Consolidated Contract CLH18238 Amendment 14 – Sanitary Survey Fees (FO-E) SS-State**
- 4. Consolidated Contract CLH18238 Amendment 14 – Yr 22 SRF - Local Asst (15%) (FO-E) SS**
- 5. Consolidated Contract CLH18238 Amendment 14 – Yr 22 SRF - Local Asst (15%) (FO-E) TA**

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Program Update

Barry Kling, Administrator, presented a COVID fiscal impact summary to the Board to provide an idea of where we stand financially in COVID expenditures prior to the program update. Barry gave a breakdown of the special COVID funding that we received, the unbudgeted expenditures or revenue losses due to COVID response and the estimated net impact on the 2020 Budget as of May 31, 2020. Barry stated that now that we have had two months of full-scale COVID response, we will be able to provide an estimate of COVID impact for the rest of 2020. Barry stated that Kandis is working on a yearlong projection of COVID costs and will share it with the Board next month. He stated that although we have received more COVID revenue than we have spent our costs for the rest of the year will far exceed the funding that we received and we will need to pursue additional COVID aid to come out of this without fiscal damage.

Barry introduced Cari Hammond, who will be taking over Carol McCormick's role as Administrator for Personal Health, and will be presenting the second half of the program update.

Cari Hammond provided a brief overview of the COVID-19 Public Health Nursing Team and the proposal to create a new COVID-19 division at CDHD. Cari stated that since mid-March, many of the CDHD's staff members have been pulled into our COVID response. Our response efforts go well beyond case investigations and contact tracing. She stated that due to the growing

number of cases in our two counties, CDHD trained a cadre of volunteers, mostly nurses, and received aid from CVCH in investigations for their COVID positive patients and patient contacts. Even with the additional help, our capacity is not adequate to complete these tasks in a timely manner and CDHD decided to turn over most of the investigation work to DOH's Contact Tracing unit. Cari stated that as our staff resumes their necessary public health work in their crucial programs, it leaves a void that must be filled. Therefore, she would like introduce a proposal to construct a new division at CDHD, a COVID Team dedicated to moving forward with the important work of responding locally to Public Health Nursing needs created by this pandemic. The team would consist of three nurses and two support staff that would take over the COVID work that has been divided among many of the CDHD staff. This would help maintain our response 7 days a week and allow us to resume our normal job responsibilities.

Barry noted that this is the first request for staff expansion due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and he provided the cost figures for the positions that are being proposed. He stated that we are proposing three public health nurses and two support staff for the COVID response. Therefore, Barry is requesting the Board of Health to authorize a budget amendment allowing CDHD to expend up to \$250,000 in direct costs on these positions in 2020. Discussion followed.

Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, made a motion to authorize a budget amendment allowing CDHD to expend up to \$250,000 in direct costs on these positions. Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner, seconded the motion.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner, requested that a more detailed outline be provided regarding the breakdown of planned COVID expenditures and Barry indicated that would be part of the budget projection Kandis is preparing.

Jill Thompson, Board Chair, requested a show of hands to capture the count of the vote. All Board members were in favor, all raised their hands, and the amendment of the 2020 Budget was passed unanimously.

Board Discussion

Dr. Malcolm Butler, CDHD Health Officer, provided an update on the mortality review of all the COVID deaths in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Dr. Butler reported that we there have been nine deaths; six of the nine deaths were clearly COVID deaths and three of the six cases were not as

clear due to the chain of events that occurred leading to the cause of death. Dr. Butler stated that two of those cases fell into that category and the last case was difficult to assess since the patient was receiving healthcare in Okanogan County (though living in Douglas) and Dr. Butler did not have access to the medical records. However, he believes it fits with the other two cases where the patients were medically ill and died after contracting the virus, but there were so many co-existing problems that it was just not completely black and white. Dr. Butler stated that he felt comfortable assessing all nine of the deaths as COVID deaths. Discussion followed and Dr. Butler answered questions relating to his report.

Public Comment

Sharon Waters, Leavenworth City Council, shared a comment on behalf of a member of the public. Sharon stated that someone wanted the Board to look into an RCW that terminates the state of emergency and would give the Board the ability to control our counties.

Due to technical difficulties and audio issues, public comment was not available. The public was encouraged to send their comments and questions to the Health District via email, telephone or social media.

New Business

Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, wanted to address the COVID Response Plan. Kevin stated that he had sent a document to the Board and asked for feedback to see if it was something we could move forward with.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner, stated that as elected officials when a constituent comes to them with a concern or a request for help, they do whatever they can to help them. Dan stated that families losing their business is what concerns him the most. He stated that he is glad that we are looking for a plan to reopen our economy, but we need to do more. He stated that although some members of the community have taken personal legal action it is not a political statement and it is not reflective of what we are trying to do in office to restore normalcy to our citizens.

Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner, echoed Commissioner Sutton's comment. Marc stated that this is not politicization and he is representing constituents that have come to him for help.

Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council, stated that she also agrees with moving forward with a COVID response plan and that we need to modify our Incident Action Plan accordingly to what the current situation is now in our community. Ruth stated that we have a better understanding of what is happening in our community than the State does and we should have our own plan to reopen our community as soon as possible. Ruth stated that we should incorporate some of the elements that we have for the Flu pandemic plan and put that into play for our local action plan.

Barry Kling, Administrator, stated that the Secretary of Health's letter included a number of specific things that we need to do in order to maintain our current phase and qualify to move into the next phase. There are also guidance for phase two and phase three that we must follow in order to move forward. Barry stated that the elements of the plan are being defined by the State and, unless and until some higher authority overrides the Governor's, we must obey the rules set in place by the Governor. Barry does agree that updating the Incident Action Plan are good ideas. He stated that many of elements of the pan flu plan are already a part of our COVID approach. Barry stated the recent lawsuit has been a major concern for him and has wasted a large amount of staff time. Barry stated that the entanglement of us, as individuals or otherwise with it, has interfered with our ability to manage the COVID response, and the rest of the Health District. He also stated that any further involvement would be a very corrosive and unfortunate influence on our attempt to protect the community. Barry also stated that he will be hosting conference calls with the Secretary of the State and the State Health Officer later this week to discuss public face masks and the testing of agricultural workers to catch any outbreaks at an early stage.

Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council, stated that what she wanted to accomplish was to avoid bureaucracy and modify our local action plan. Ruth stated that it would be more conducive if the local health district had control of our community and not the state.

Further discussion followed. Barry acknowledged the Board's frustration. He suggested that the next proposal that they submit should state that we are essentially in phase two now and the next sensible step would be to request to move into phase three.

Mike Steele, State Representative, also wanted to comment and share some frustrations he has been experiencing. He stated that there has been frustrations in every level of government. He stated that as state elected officials, they can only do so much and he has been finding it extremely

difficult to communicate with the Governor's office. He stated that although it has been very challenging to voice our frustrations, we need to work together. The Governor needs to hear from the people that have been elected to represent them and who better than to tell their story than the people who live here. Mike stated that they working diligently to meet the expectations of the State Secretary of Health. He, along with the Chamber of Commerce, are willing to cooperate with the Health District, but there are many businesses on the verge of failing if they continue to remain in the current phase. Mike stated that business are asking for guidance and assurance from the Governor to reopen our economy.

Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, proposed that a sub-committee be designated to complete a modified COVID Incident Action Plan.

Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council; Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner; and Sharon Waters, Leavenworth Council, volunteered to be on the COVID Action Plan Sub-Committee.

Unfinished Business

None

Reports

Kandis Boersema, Associate Administrator of Fiscal and Support Services, reported that through May 2020 with 42% of the year completed, the revenues were at 48% of budget and expenditures were at 39% of budget. She also provided a breakdown of the latest COVID-19 expenditures.

Carol McCormick, Associate Administrator for Personal Health, Thanked the Board for approving the COVID Program team. Carol reported that personal health and environmental health staff have continued to work diligently in our COVID response efforts, but with the aid of the new program they will be able to resume their regular job duties and focus on their normal programs. Carol reported that five people received rabies prophylaxis in May, but they were all from the same family. Carol will be retiring at the end of the month and introduced Cari Hammond as the new Administrator for personal health.


Veronica Farias, Health Communications Coordinator, provided a brief update on our social media and website analytics. Veronica stated that our

website has gained a lot of traction in the last few months. She stated that she is working on getting our Spanish website out to the Spanish speaking community. Veronica also provided an update on the current outreach and communication efforts.

Hilary Knelleken, Administrator for Environmental Health, reported that they recently filled the Onsite/Land-use Program position. Arnica Briody accepted the EH Specialist III position and started working on May 7. Hilary reported that EH staff continues to work on COVID response efforts. Hilary reported that the Food program is not conducting routine inspections at this time, but they are working with restaurants and other food service establishments in regards to COVID response duties. Hilary also reported that on May 7, Winton Manufacturing LLC was issued a Solid Waste Permit for a composting facility and hopes to start operating by mid-July

Barry Kling, Administrator, wanted to add a few things to the EH report. Barry stated that we should consider not charging the full year permit fees to food establishments, or possibly refunding a portion of those charged for the current year, in view of the COVID-19 closures. He also stated that Onsite is actually ahead in comparison to last year.

Jill Thompson, Board Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:27p.m.



Dan Sutton, Board Chair