

February 3, 2021

BURKE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING

The Burke County Board of Health met in regular session on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Cisco WebEx in the Conference Room No. H-69 of the Human Resource Center, located at 700 East Parker Road in Morganton, North Carolina. Members present were:

PRESENT:

Susan Bingham- Chair
Carol Ervin Largent
Johnnie Carswell
Melinda Zimmerman
Dr. Nicholas Thomas
Isaac Crouch – Vice Chair
Dr. Nicholas Thomas
Dr. Thomas Wallrichs

ABSENT:

Connie Stines
Adriana Morris
Dr. Anthony Frank

ALSO, PRESENT:

Rebecca McLeod, Health Director
Missy Estep, Administrative Assistant III
Valerie Kelly, Director of Nursing

CALL TO ORDER

Susan Bingham called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Malinda Zimmerman made the motion to approve the agenda, Dr. Wallrichs seconded the motion with no additions or corrections it stands approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM December 2, 2020

Melinda Zimmerman made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2020 meeting. Isaac Crouch seconded the motion with no additions or corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present to address the Board.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Susan Bingham asked for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Susan Bingham, as outgoing Vice-Chair was nominated for Chairman of the Board by Johnnie Carswell and seconded by Melinda Zimmerman. Susan asked if anyone else would be interested in being Chair, Isaac stated he is new but is willing to do any position.

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The nomination was closed. Vote was taken and all present in favor of Susan as Chair. Susan Bingham opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair. Johnnie Carswell nominated Isaac Crouch to be Vice-Chair for the Board. Discussion regarding Carol as current Vice-Chair and her willingness to continue. Roll call vote was taken and Isaac Crouch is the new Vice-Chair. Susan Bingham, Chair, continued with the rest of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business currently.

PRESENTATIONS

COVID-19- Emily Poteet gave an update on COVID to the Board of Health. She discussed the community vaccination efforts are going. There are limited doses into the county. We have partnered Carolinas Healthcare System Blue Ridge, EMS, EM, Schools system to put on clinics at Freedom High School and here at the Health Department. We are currently vaccinating in Phase 1 and 2, healthcare workers and people who are 65+. We have large populations of both healthcare and 65+ individuals so it will take a while to work through those two groups. There have been approximately 7,000 through Blue Ridge and 2,000 through the Health Department who have received first doses. Things are going well for the number of doses we have received into the county.

Discuss about volunteers from the public from Board members. Emily stated they can sign up through the NCDHHS website for volunteers, but at this point with limited doses not a need for volunteers. Deana Gates, through the County, 828-764-9094, is our volunteer coordinator. Her email is deana.gates@burkenc.org. Emily further stated that we are testing on Mondays and Tuesdays and focusing on vaccination preparation and clinics Wednesday through Fridays.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed Three Year BCHD Strategic Plan – Emily Poteet then presented information from the BCHD Strategic Plan. She went over the proposed new three-year Strategic Plan components. There was discussion regarding proposed plan and how it is required to have to be aligned with the current Community Health Needs Assessment. There was discussion about where the pandemic fit into the new proposed plan. Rebecca responded that out of the six goals, the pandemic is covered by five of the goals. She completed her presentation by asking Board members to read over the proposed plan and come prepared to the next Board meeting to vote on the Strategic Plan. She thanked the Board for their time.

BOARD DECISION ITEMS

Rebecca brought up to the Board that they would need to meet in March because we have not had time to work on our FY22 budget to approve. The board discussed which date and time would be good to meet. They decided to meet on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 5:00 pm. All were in favor of meeting on that day and time.

CLOSED SESSION -

Board Chair Susan Bingham said a closed session is needed to discuss threatened or pending litigation, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss economic development matters, to discuss personnel matters, and to discuss terms of acquisition of real property as authorized by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3), (4) and (6).

Motion: To go into closed session.

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RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Susan Bingham, Board Chair
AYES: Susan Bingham, Isaac Crouch, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, Dr. Thomas Wallrichs, Johnnie Carswell, Carol Ervin Largent, and Melinda Zimmerman

Motion: To come out of closed session.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Johnnie Carswell
AYES: Susan Bingham, Isaac Crouch, Dr. Nicolas Thomas, Dr. Thomas Wallrichs, Johnnie Carswell, Carol Ervin Largent, and Melinda Zimmerman

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion: To accept the retirement notice of Rebecca McLeod, Health Director effective July 1, 2021.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Rebecca stated working very hard on COVID. Frustration on public and County's part of limited doses. The NC Local Health Directors Association has complained to Secretary Cohen and Governor Cooper's decision to allocate to mega sites for COVID vaccine clinics. Staff are working on long term care, assisted living, and group homes who had not signed up for the federal CVS and Wal-greens vaccination program. Staff are also going to homebound people to vaccinate them when we have enough doses to go out. We are taking care of our historically marginalized populations – deaf and hard of hearing, Hispanic populations, African American populations. We will also work with businesses such as Case Farms and others when we receive the approval to move to Phase 3.

There was lengthy discussion about the vaccine allocations, the phases, no wasted doses, frustrations, and meeting the needs of the county in vaccinating.

Rebecca thanked the Board for their support and promised them a smooth transition.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Susan Bingham, adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Approved this the 3rd day of February 2021.


Susan Bingham, Chairman
Burke County Board of Health

Attest:


Rebecca McLeod, Health Director
Burke County Health Department