

**Board of Health
Tuesday, August 6, 2024
Hybrid Meeting / Penn Room**

Members Attending: J. Moya – in person; J. Henning, K. Schorn, K. Wang, J. Dethoff, B. Hospidor, J. Schwartz - virtually

Others Attending: S. Smith – in person; C. Reed, M. Sninsky, J. Melendez - virtually

Dr. Dethoff called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. He stated that a quorum is present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Hospidor, seconded by Dr. Wang, to approve the June 4, 2024 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- Health Inspections

Mr. Reed provided the following report:

- 66 health inspections were completed
- 18 rechecks were required
- 1 business was closed for seven days until violations were corrected
- 14 animal cases were investigated

Dr. Dethoff questioned open grilling. Mr. Reed stated that a media release was issued and that has helped to reduce the problem. He stated that enforcement will begin 30 days after the release was issued.

Mr. Lachat connected to the meeting virtually at this time.

Ms. Smith questioned if residents should call the Police non-emergency number to report open grilling after City Hall has closed or on weekends. Mr. Reed stated that this is correct.

- Lead Abatement Program

Mr. Melendez provided the following report:

- Lead has been abated from a total of 23 homes under the Federal program and from 12 homes under the State program
- 34 homes are in the abatement process

Dr. Dethoff questioned if the City was likely to be awarded additional grant funding when it reapplies. Mr. Melendez stated that the City intends to request a one year extension of the grants. He stated that the City will apply again if funding is available.

Dr. Dethoff questioned what determines if a municipality is awarded the grant. Mr. Melendez stated that HUD has a rating system which is used for these grants.

- EMS

Dr. Dethoff stated that the July statistics have been provided via email.

Deputy Chief. Sninsky described the data breach by the City's former ambulance billing company. He stated that the company shut down its website to prevent further issues. He stated that the City is contracting with a new company to handle ambulance billing.

Deputy Chief. Sninsky stated that the call volume has been steady. He stated that staff does their best with social service calls and works to ensure that no one is left behind.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if Reading's operations were affected by the Crowdstrike malfunction. Mr. Sninsky stated that operations were not affected.

- Health Literacy Program

Dr. Dethoff stated that a meeting invitation was provided but that no one is in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ambulance Ride Alongs

Deputy Chief Sninsky stated that the City's newest ambulance was recently in an accident. He apologized for the delay but stated that there are a limited number of vehicles available at this time.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if there has been interest in riding along. Deputy Chief Sninsky stated that there is interest. He stated that he will arrange the ride alongs after the next fire graduation. He stated that National Night Out has been rescheduled to August 14. He stated that an ambulance will be at the event for anyone who wishes to visit.

- County Health Department

Dr. Wang and Dr. Schwartz stated that there is no update.

- Home Healthcare Companies

Dr. Dethoff expressed the belief that everyone working for these agencies should know basic lifesaving skills.

Mr. Moya stated that he did some follow up and his former mother-in-law's company did not require CPR training. He stated that the aid is paid by the County.

Dr. Dethoff questioned the services that were provided by the aid. Mr. Moya stated that she cooked, cleaned, assisted with personal hygiene, and was a companion.

Dr. Schwartz questioned if this was a licensed agency. Mr. Moya stated that it is.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if Dr. Wang has any information on these agencies.

Mr. Moya stated that the arrangements were made through an office at a senior high rise. Dr. Dethoff requested that Mr. Moya obtain the agency phone number and he will follow up.

- Street Sweeper Program

Dr. Dethoff questioned who should be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss this issue. Mr. Henning suggested that it should be Bethany Ayers-Fisher, the City's Sustainability Manager. He suggested that perhaps a joint meeting with the Board of Health and Environmental Advisory Council should be held. Ms. Smith stated that she will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

- National Health Center Week

Ms. Schorn and Dr. Wang invited all to attend Berks Community Health Center's National Health Center Week celebrations.

- Reading Education Foundation

Dr. Dethoff invited all to attend the Foundation's event at First Energy Stadium on September 10.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 4 pm hybridly via Zoom and in the Penn Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk