

**Board of Health
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Hybrid Meeting / Penn Room**

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

Others Attending: S. Smith – in person; S. Herbert, M. Sninsky, J. Stoudt, F. Lachat, BCTV - 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 Ms. Schorn, seconded by Mr. Hospidor, to approve the October 1, 2024 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Swartz connected to the meeting virtually at this time.

REPORTS

- Health Inspections

Ms. Herbert stated that she has inspected all Reading schools, has continued with regular inspections, and has followed up on complaints. She stated that it has been a busy time.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if schools were inspected annually. Ms. Herbert stated that they are inspected two times per year where there is food service. She stated that she is now working evenings and nights to inspect bars. She stated that she is confirming their business license, their liquor license, their Serve Safe, and performing kitchen inspections. She stated that working nights is very different.

Ms. Schorn questioned if Ms. Herbert is working alone. Ms. Herbert stated that she is never alone and that another inspector is accompanying her. She stated that many operators have been irate that they are being inspected.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if private clubs are inspected. Ms. Herbert stated that they are inspected.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if after hours clubs are inspected. Ms. Herbert stated that they are but that there aren't many operating at this time.

- Lead Abatement Program

Ms. Smith stated that Mr. Melendez is not available to attend today's meeting. She stated that she will follow up with him to get an update.

Dr. Dethoff stated that RAWA is performing a service line pipe survey to determine the location of lead service lines. He questioned what occurs if lead lines are discovered. Ms. Herbert stated that RAWA will replace the lines.

- EMS

Chief Stoudt stated that he had no update.

Deputy Chief Sninsky stated that 20-30 doses of Narcan are being administered monthly and that cases of RSV are on the rise in the senior population. He described the logistics and assignments when Vice President Harris and President-elect Trump visited Reading. He stated that there were minimal issues during these events.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if changes were made in protocols after the near tragedy with President-elect Trump. Deputy Chief Sninsky stated that there was an increase in items to prepare for after the event in Butler. He stated that there were large crowds at each event and that one ambulance was dedicated to the candidate in case another attempt was made.

Dr. Dethoff stated that he was glad there were no incidents in Reading and thanked the Department for being well prepared.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ambulance Ride Alongs

Deputy Chief Sninsky stated that with the colder weather, the ride alongs should be postponed until spring.

- County Health Department

Dr. Dethoff provided a brief background of this topic.

Dr. Swartz stated that there is no new update.

Dr. Wang stated that the medical community is trying to move this forward but that there is a funding barrier. She stated that the Commissioners have not forgotten about the initiative and that they do recognize the need to have a local health department.

NEW BUSINESS

- CA Supreme Court Ruling – Fluoride in Drinking Water

Dr. Dethoff provided a brief background of the work the Board had done on this issue in the past and stated that Ms. Smith had shared the Board's position statement. He stated that evidence to remove fluoride from the water supply had been scant in the past. He stated that the CA ruling will result in additional studies. He suggested waiting for these new studies to be released before adjusting the Board's position statement.

Dr. Wang stated that this issue is raised every few years. She expressed the belief that it is by conspiracy theorists and she noted the benefits of adding fluoride to the water supply.

Dr. Dethoff noted the need for the Board to be open to new information and to weigh the benefits versus the risks.

Dr. Wang expressed the belief that adding fluoride to the water supply was a medical victory.

Mr. Hospidor stated that FL is also calling to remove fluoride from the water supply. He stated that municipalities are trying to opt out to keep fluoride in the water supply.

Dr. Dethoff stated that he questioned a person who opposes fluoride if they had well water and fluoride occurred naturally would they drink their water. He expressed the belief that those who are against fluoride are against all additives.

- 2025 Meeting Schedule

Dr. Dethoff suggested keeping the same meeting schedule. Ms. Smith questioned if this schedule was still convenient for members. Members agreed to keep the same meeting schedule.

Mr. Moya requested that more members attend in person in the future. Dr. Dethoff agreed that this is possible in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 4 pm hybridly via Zoom and in the Penn Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk