



**Jefferson County Board of Health
Regular Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2020 9:00am
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Board Members Present: John Bresland (Chair), Carmela Cesare (Vice-Chair), Ann Smith, Damien Hinck, Anh Nguyen

Board Members Absent: Caleb Hudson (County Commissioner)

Also Present: Marty Freeman (Health Administrator), Dr. Terrence Reidy (Health Officer), Heather Yost (Registered Nurse), Gillian Beach (Sanitarian Supervisor), Kaitlin Lacey (Threat Preparedness Coordinator), Nathan Cochran (Assistant County Prosecuting Attorney)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Bresland. The agenda for today's meeting was presented and accepted.

Public Comment:

David Lutman thanked the Board for working hard during this pandemic, and suggested tabling any changes to the septic regulations for the time being. He also asked if the Board knew when the Health Department you will start accepting well and septic applications again.

Paul Raco said he appreciates the Board's service during these troubling times. He agreed with Mr. Lutman on delaying the septic regulation discussion during pandemic, and asked that the Health Department resume well and septic applications again

Lynn thanked the Board for making their meetings open to the public and asked that the Board keep in mind the ways regulations affect essential workers, especially agricultural workers.

Catherine Jozwick thanked the Board of Health, Sheriff Dougherty, and Dr. Reidy for the quick implementation of enhanced protections in the Eastern Panhandle; and asked that the Board carefully consider whether it's wise to take back Dr. Reidy's authority to make emergency decisions for the Board.

Marie Uehling agreed with Ms. Jozwick's statements and thanked the Board.

Dan Casto said he thinks there is a lot of uncertainty and concern in the community about Dr. Reidy's authority. The shutdown of a local golf course makes people question whether these powers are being used for political purposes. If Board members are unwilling to meet more frequently to address these issues they should resign.

Unfinished Business:

Septic Reserve Area regulations – Discussion/Action:

This item was tabled until further notice.

New Business:

Discussion and Update Regarding COVID-19 and Related Issues:

Dr. Reidy updated the Board on the current status of COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County and the surrounding area. Mr. Bresland asked about Dr. Reidy’s involvement in the closing of the county’s 2 golf courses. Dr. Reidy said he simply responded to a question from the Sheriff at the April 5 Board meeting that golf courses are not essential businesses. Members discussed the COVID-19 pandemic including testing capacity, prevention, and mitigation.

Proposal to Rescind Order Allowing Dr. Reidy to Act on the Board’s Behalf:

Ms. Nguyen said she believes the Board may have acted too quickly and given Dr. Reidy too much authority. Members discussed the decision to allow Dr. Reidy to sign documents and make decisions on behalf of the Board in matters related to COVID-19. Ms. Beach clarified that during the April 5 emergency meeting the sheriff asked Dr. Reidy if golf courses are considered essential. He responded that in his opinion they are not, but he did not order the sheriff to close the golf courses.

Ms. Nguyen moved to rescind the order allowing Dr. Reidy to Act on the Board’s behalf. Motion died for lack of a second.

Activity Report:

- Health Administrator
 - Jefferson County became the first county in West Virginia with positive COVID-19 case on March 17
 - Clinical Staff’s training in epidemiology prepared them for interviewing patients and contact tracing, assisted by the National Guard
 - Environmental Staff have been advising businesses and continuing with essential public health services
 - Kaitlin has been receiving personal protective equipment from the state and delivering to healthcare facilities in the county
- Health Officer
 - Most of the staff is working remotely as we have recommended for other workplaces
 - Septic permitting has been delayed due to COVID-19 response, but the goal is to resume as soon as possible
 - Golf courses have re-opened with social distancing measures in place, the governor’s office has developed guidelines specific golf courses
 - Visited the Rockwool construction site as it is a concern in the community, they are following regulations and have good plans in place to protect their workers
 - Encouraged everyone to stay at home as much as possible and practice social distancing
- Environmental
 - Contacted all establishments affected by new local or state orders

- Have temporarily suspended accepting well and septic applications (other than final inspections and emergencies) to focus on COVID-19
- Clinical
 - March 17 we had the first positive in the state
 - All positive patients are interviewed to find out where they've been and who they've been in contact with
 - Contacted Urgent Cares and other healthcare facilities to coordinate testing and reporting
 - Temporarily suspended non-essential appointments, essential appointments are being handled by drive-up in the parking lot
 - Getting assistance with contact tracing and patient monitoring from two school nurses and three National Guard members
 - 49 confirmed COVID-19 cases so far in Jefferson County
- Threat Preparedness
 - Distributed personal protective equipment from Strategic National Stockpile
 - Received donation of over 1000 N95 masks from Jefferson County Schools to distribute to healthcare facilities
 - Provided information on PPE optimization strategies in medical settings
 - Participated in local, regional and state meetings for situational awareness
 - Reviewed plans and policies of various county agencies and local businesses

Approval of March Financial Report:

Mr. Hinck moved to approve the March Financial Report as presented. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Approval of March 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Smith moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence Reidy, Health Officer