

**December 8, 2021, Board of Health Meeting  
Virtual Meeting Held Via WebEx**

The Board of Health convened in open session at 5:17 pm  
The meeting was called to order by Mery Price

**Board Members Present  
Quorum is reached**

Mery Price  
True Vue  
Martha Nieman  
Terry Miskulin  
Jennifer Eddy  
Emily Berge  
Don Bodeau (5:19pm)  
Mark Kaeding (5:35 pm)

**Board Members Absent:**  
None

**Staff Members Present:**

Lieske Giese  
Janice Vinopal  
Hannah Artz  
Marisa Stanley  
Matt Steinbach  
Gina Holt (recorder)

Janice Vinopal, Budget Specialist, is retiring in January 2022. Her service was recognized. Janice took a moment to thank Board members for working together throughout her time at the Health Department.

**Order of Agenda Request to pull items from Consent Agenda**

- None made

**Public Comment:**

- None made

**Consent Agenda**

- Approval of minutes from October 27, 2021
- Approval of minutes from November 10, 2021
- Approve Grant/Contract related budget adjustments

***Motion to approve Consent Agenda:*** Martha Nieman

***2nd Motion:*** Terry Miskulin

***Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)***

**Business Item**

- Approval of 2022 Budget
  - The budget process began in July 2021, and this is the official budget that will begin January 2022.
  - There will be additional changes related to grants throughout the year.
  - The additional COVID spending will not all be spent in 2022, it will carryover.

***Motion to approve 2022 Budget as presented by Health Department staff:*** Don Bodeau

***2nd Motion:*** Terry Miskulin

***Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)***

- Recommend approval of proposed new Eau Claire County Ordinance – Chapter 8.30 (Keeping of Poultry)
  - There is not currently a County Ordinance, so this is specific to that.
  - There are two health department staff working in this program area.

Board Member Question and Answer:

Q: When will it go to the County Board and who will bring it? A: It will come from the Health Department to the County Board as a proposed change at their next meeting.

Q: Does everyone need a license in the City and County? A: This wouldn't affect anyone zoned in an agricultural area only in residential areas.

Q: Is there a requirement to get permission with neighbors? A: In the City neighbors are notified by mail that a license has been requested. This language is not included in the County Ordinance.

**Motion to recommend adoption of proposed new Eau Claire County Ordinance –Section Chapter 8.30 (Keeping of Poultry) as presented by Health Department staff:** Martha Nieman

**2nd Motion:** Don Bodeau

**Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)**

c. Recommend approval of proposed Eau Claire County Ordinance revisions – Title 8 (Health & Safety)

- The department deemed that these changes are important for the health and safety of the community.

Board Member Question and Answer:

Q: Where are we going with removing the language on wells? We had significant discussions with the DNR regarding this issue. In an egregious situation if there was a delay in action from the DNR we have other tools in place to protect the health and safety of the community.

**Motion to recommend adoption of proposed Eau Claire County Ordinance revisions – Title 8 (Health & Safety) as presented by Health Department staff:** True Vue

**2nd Motion:** Mark Kaeding

**Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)**

d. Approval of Milwaukee Burger Well Woman Program donation

- This donation will help fund outreach for the 8-county jurisdiction.

**Motion to approve Milwaukee Burger Well Woman Program donation as presented by Health Department staff:** Mark Kaeding

**2nd Motion:** Martha Nieman

**Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)**

e. Approval of Leave Addition

- This leave will be prorated by FTE.
- We are acknowledging the incredible effort that the team has put forward during an unprecedented year.

Board Member Question and Answer:

Q: Is this permanent? A: This is a one-time event for this year. We aren't anticipating coming forward with this type of leave request again.

Q: Has consideration been given to the staff who will have to cover the work? A: Management team was confident that making it work for people to take leave is a priority.

Q: Is there potential impact for revenue loss? A: There would be potential that a small revenue change could be possible, but most of our revenue isn't service based.

**Motion to approve Leave Addition as presented by Health Department staff:** Don Bodeau

**2nd Motion:** Terry Miskulin

**Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)**

f. Approval of Handbook update – vacation payout in 2021

- This is an additional one time ask. In our handbook there is a provision that staff can carry over 125 hours and any hours over that would be lost.
- For those employees that have not been able to take their leave they will have a choice to receive a cash payout this year for hours exceeding 80 hours.

Board Question and Answer:

Q: Is this something that ARPA funds can be used for? A: We were not considering ARPA funds as we have adequate funds to support this.

***Motion to approve Handbook update – vacation payout in 2021 as presented by Health Department staff:*** Martha Nieman

***2nd Motion:*** True Vue

***Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)***

g. Election of Board of Health President & Vice President

- Terry has indicated that he is willing to continue as Vice President but if others are willing to step forward, he would support that.
- The requirement for Vice President is an hour-long monthly call to plan the Board of Health meeting agenda.
- If the President was unable to attend a Board of Health meeting the Vice President would run the meeting.
- No board members request to be nominated

***Motion to elect Terry Miskulin as Vice President of Board of Health for 2022:*** Jennifer Eddy

***2nd Motion:*** Mark Kaeding

***Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)***

***Motion to elect Mery Price as President of Board of Health for 2022:*** Mark Kaeding

***2nd Motion:*** Martha Nieman

***Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)***

**Other policy and informational items from staff for the Board**

a. COVID-19 update

- The situation report is a great resource for data.
- Our daily average case load continues to be high.
- We continue to see an increase in hospitalizations and deaths.
- Vaccination remains a priority.
- There is a larger population to vaccinate with boosters and the 5-11 age group.

Board of Health Question and Answer:

Q: Are we still focusing on breakthrough? Is there information on sequencing available? A: Breakthrough data is on the state website. There are four labs in Wisconsin that do the sequencing. [WI SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Report \(wisc.edu\)](https://www.wisc.edu/sars-cov-2-genomic-report) this link was shared with Board members.

Q: Do you have any idea why despite all efforts to make vaccination available that populations of color are still lagging? A: This is an important question and something that our health equity team is focused on. The group that meets has representation from a variety of groups and take the situation very seriously. This is a concern statewide.

b. Director/Health Officer Report

- A lot of steps forward being made.
- c. Alice Report “The Pandemic Divide” An Alice Analysis of National COVID Surveys - [COVID-19 and ALICE | unitedforalice](#)
- As we move into the new year, we will reference the report.

#### Board member informational items

- a. Board of Health Advocacy/Policy –
- WPHA/WALHDAB Legislative Priorities
    - Board members will be emailed more information on the legislation related to boards of Health as it becomes available.
    - DNR is going through a process regarding regulating drinking water.
  - NACCHO national advocacy
    - <https://www.naccho.org/advocacy/resources>
    - [Take Action - NACCHO](#)
- b. Standing Committee Updates:
- City Council: The City budget passed. There was a work session held regarding housing affordability.
  - County Board: The County Board approved rezoning of a parcel of land in Pleasant Valley for a subdivision. The development process will include the Health Department as plans are made for things like septic systems and water quality.
  - Ground Water Advisory Committee: Will be meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - ARPA County Funding-No update
  - Other
- c. 2022 Board of Health Calendar
- Meetings will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, except for November and December when it will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

#### Requests from Board members for future agenda items to be given consideration

- None made

**Closed session** - Motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. To wit: Performance evaluation of Health Department Director, an employee over whom the Board of Health has supervisory control.

**Motion:** Terry Miskulin

**2nd Motion:** Jennifer Eddy

**Motion Carried on Roll Call Vote: Yes**

**Ayes:** Terry Miskulin, True Vue, Mark Kaeding, Martha Nieman, Emily Berge, Jennifer Eddy, Don Bodeau

Meeting moves to closed session at 6:49 pm

The performance evaluation and compensation of Elizabeth Giese, Health Department Director/Health Officer was discussed. Following the Board discussion, the Director joined the closed session, and a verbal summary of the discussion was shared with her.

At 8:00 pm a motion was made by Martha Nieman and 2nd motion by Don Bodeau to move out of closed session and return to open session. The motion was carried by unanimous yes vote. The

Board and the Director reconvened in open session.

**Staff present:** Elizabeth Giese

***Motion to increase Director Elizabeth Giese's annual rate of compensation by 4% for the 2022 calendar year:*** Martha Nieman

***2nd motion:*** Jennifer Eddy

***Motion carried: Yes (Unanimous Vote)***

Next scheduled BOH meeting is January 26, 2022, at 5:15 p.m.

Merey Price adjourned the meeting at 8:06p.m.