



**STORY COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH**  
STORY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION  
900 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEVADA, IOWA 50201

## Minutes

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE FULL MEETING MAY BE FOUND IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, OR BY VISITING [WWW.STORYCOUNTYIOWA.GOV](http://WWW.STORYCOUNTYIOWA.GOV)**

**DATE:** December 1, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER:** 2:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Zoom Meeting

Dr. John Paschen, Chair

Mark Speck, Vice-Chair

Dr. John Kluge

Dr. Louisa Tabatabai

Dr. Molly Lee

Lisa Heddens (Ex-officio)

\*Absent

**STAFF PRESENT:** Margaret Jaynes, Environmental Health Director; Cathy Bazylinski, Environmental Specialist; Matt Cory, Environmental Specialist; Stephanie Jones, Recording Secretary

### **OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT:**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. John Paschen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Paschen read the special note to public: Due to recommendations to social distance in order to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the capacity of our meeting room is significantly limited.

Therefore, public access to the meeting is being provided via Zoom. Members of the public can participate by using the information at the bottom of agenda. Board of Health members are also present via Zoom.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA MCU**

**Motion by Kluge, Second by Lee to approve agenda (MCU)**

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by Kluge, Second by Tabatabai to approve the October 6, 2020 and November 10, 2020 minutes.**

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion by Speck, Second by Tabatabai to approve the 2021 Board of Health Meeting Schedule and 2021 Holiday Calendar.**

#### **5. PUBLIC FORUM**

None



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**6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

**COVID-19 Update**

Les White presented a COVID-19 update and provided information on current positivity rates, URI clinic visits, Story County positive cases by age, County Zip Code positives, Story County vs. State of Iowa percent positives, and Public School Districts Percent Positive Analysis. Other COVID related activities White provided information on included: alternative site clients, long term care facilities, schools, deaths, Test Iowa Site, Contact Tracing, and possible changes to quarantine recommendations from CDC.

Paschen asked if there have been any discussions about why the CDC and IDPH considers an exposure differently. White stated that they are using the IDPH recommendations and it does get confusing when IDPH and CDC have conflicting recommendations. Paschen asked if schools have had outbreaks within classrooms. White stated more exposures are coming from outside activities that are not necessarily within the school system. There has been a few exposures due to sports, but not from the classrooms. Heddens asked about long-term care facilities, being nursing facilities or if group homes are included. White stated that it is strictly long-term care and does not include assisted living or group homes.

**COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

Treasa Ferrari stated they have been working on training and preparing for the vaccine to arrive, which looks like it will be sometime the week of December 14, 2020. Priority groups are not yet set, but speculation is that front line workers will be first, followed by long-term care facilities. Ferrari stated that there are three ultra-cold freezers available, which should provide plenty of storage. Paschen asked if it is known how many vaccines Story County will receive. Ferrari stated that is not known at this time. Speck asked about hospital treatments being given. Paschen stated there is a new experimental treatment available by infusion that can be given to those that do not require hospitalization and are high risk. Speck also asked about use of a Z-Pak. Paschen stated that Zithromax has anti-inflammatory capacity and is used on many pulmonary conditions. Steroids are also used, but no routine treatment on an outpatient basis. Heddens asked how much the hospital is using Remdesivir. Paschen stated he would need to look into that for details. Tabatabai asked if there are results published for the experimental treatment study, which Paschen had mentioned. Paschen stated that as far as he knows the results are good so far.

**Newly Allocated Funding For Local Public Health Related To COVID-19**

White stated that \$92,000 was allocated and must be used by the end of the year. White stated that she and Keith Morgan put together a list of possible items to use funding on which included: Cost of Microtel for homeless \$10,000, \$30.00 per day to homeless shelter for meals, housing assistance, contract with RSVP for scheduling assistance will be approximately \$1,900, four laptops, headsets to be used for answering phones, contract tracer reimbursement, reimbursements to Story County Medical and MG for COVID related expenses, Story County Mask Campaign, and PPE. Paschen stated the he liked the idea of using some of the funding for a campaign relating to the face covering regulation with a public service announcement on how to



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properly wear a mask. Paschen stated that if anyone is contacted by the press that would be a good opportunity to ask for news time to talk about how to wear a mask properly. Heddens stated it would also be a good opportunity to remind people that are wearing a face shield that they should wear in combination with a mask. Kluge asked if there would be a drive thru for a vaccine clinic and that an auto dealership not in use would be a good location. White stated that it is not known at this time due to not knowing the availability of the vaccines.

### **Enforcement of Face Covering Regulation**

Paschen asked if people are seeing many people not wearing face coverings. Speck thinks that many people are wearing masks. Heddens felt that education seems to be a big component. Discussion took place about the City of Ames social media outreach pushing the wearing of face coverings and the City of Nevada posts a daily update providing numbers. Lauris Olson stated that signs at many businesses still only say masks are recommended. Olson felt that a mailing to businesses letting them know about the county mandate could be helpful. Additional discussion took place about newspaper, radio, and other methods of advertising. Olson had several ideas about educational information. Paschen stated that he could check with McFarland about providing posters.

**Motion by Tabatabai, Second by Lee to request Lauris Olson coordinate mask mandate education in the county.**

**Voting Aye: Tabatabai**

**Voting Nay: Kluge, Lee, Speck, Paschen**

**Motion by Kluge, Second by Lee to request the Board of Supervisors work with Leanne Harter to increase mask mandate campaign. MCU**

**Voting Aye: Tabatabai, Kluge, Lee, Speck, Paschen**

**Voting Nay: None**

### **Letter To Ames School Superintendent Recommending Temporary Suspension Of Winter Sports**

Discussion took place about the appropriateness of issuing a letter to all Story County school districts recommending sports activities be postponed if school is not in session full time. Speck asked if this letter would be a recommendation. Paschen stated that it would be a recommendation from the Board of Health. Additional discussion took place on whether that would include practicing or only games.

**Motion by Kluge, Second by Tabatabai to write a letter in the same format of the Polk County Health Department and instead of the sentence that reads "winter sports should be placed on hold", that it should say "winter sports activities should be placed on hold until students are in school full time" with the removal of any references regarding Polk County.**

Discussion took place about whether or not a special meeting would need to be held to approve the letter after written. Paschen stated that if the board was ok with the letter going out in the same format with only the one addition that he would be ok with sending it out without holding a special meeting.



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**Letter To Iowa Onsite Wastewater Association Regarding Policy to Charge for CEU's**

Margaret Jaynes stated that the focus of the group is pushing that education is good, so charging for CEU's gives the wrong message. Jaynes felt that extending the deadline for obtaining CEU's would be better. Jaynes requested the board allow her to write a letter to the Iowa Onsite Wastewater Association from the board. Paschen asked what the letter would state and Jaynes stated it would be to suggest instead of charging for the CEU's, an option would be to extend the CEU deadline as well as requesting that the certified installer handbook be posted on line.

Speck had concerns with the ability to obtain CEU's since there are no conferences. Jaynes stated that there are online courses available.

**Motion by Speck, Second by Kluge to allow Jaynes the authority to write a letter stating that the CEU's requirement should be extended, for Speck to review the letter before it is sent out, and for the certified installer handbook to be posted on their website. MCU**

**FY2022 Environmental Health Department's Proposed Budget**

Jaynes stated that yearly the auditor requests a re-estimate of the budget to determine where numbers are currently. FY21 revenues are down, as well as expenditures due to COVID. Jaynes went through the items that have significant changes. Postage changed due to a recommendation from the Board of Supervisors to send out information regarding septic education. Legal notices were re-estimated due to the septic ordinance publication, as well as pool and tanning ordinances.

**Motion by Kluge, Second by Speck to recommend the FY2022 Environmental Health Department's proposed budget excluding the salary and benefit section. MCU**

**Agency and Departmental Reports**

**Environmental Health** – Jaynes stated that she provided the departmental report with the agenda and asked if anyone had questions. Jaynes stated that Planning and Development as well as Environmental Health Departments are staggering days due to COVID to try to prevent all staff members risking becoming sick in the event of an exposure within the office.

**Public Health** – Ferrari stated that much time has been spent on COVID related duties and there is not much to report about other diseases, with the exception of a recent TB and crypto case.

**YSS** – Ryan Doyle provided information from the October Prevention Services Report. Topics in the report included: safe sexual health, Let's Talk Month, Roland-Story sexual health presentation, mentoring program, substance abuse prevention virtual programming, and the Too Good for Drugs Program is still being worked out to present safely due to COVID.



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**7. COMMENTS:**

**Staff:** Margaret stated that the final hearing for the septic ordinance is next Tuesday. If approved, the new ordinance would become effective January 1, 2021.

**Board:** Paschen stated that normally in December the Chair and Vice Chair would be elected, but since re-appointments have not yet been made, that would wait until the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** 4:07p.m.

John Paschen, MD

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**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman 2/16/21

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**Title and Date**