

TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 12, 2022

112 E. Mariah Avenue, Wendover Utah

PRESENT:

Board: Pam Bennett, Anthony Howes, Tom Tripp, Linda McBeth, Mathew Jackson, Devan Clevenger, Neil Critchlow

Absent: Michael Wells, Nando Meli

Staff: Ericka Jordt, Bryan Slade, Brad Gillies, Amy Royal, John Contreras, Amy Bate, Jeff Coombs, Leena Chapman, Jamie Zwerin, Lucia Benitez, Deeanna Croasmun

Public: Mayor Dennis Sweat

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS
Welcome- <i>Chair</i>	Tom called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken.	
Approve March 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Action Item) <i>Chair</i>	Tom entertained a motion to approve the March 22, 2022, meeting minutes.	Neil Critchlow made a motion to approve the March 22, 2022, meeting minutes, Mathew Jackson seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion approved.
Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item) <i>Chair</i>	Linda reported that two board members and three employees attended the Symposium. Neil commended the Symposium. Linda had no new information to report. Tom gave an update on the Opioid lawsuit. Every county in the state has joined the lawsuit except two counties. The impact of this settlement has yet to be determined. The proposal is that we should get 85% of what was offered. A payout of 1.8 million dollars will be used towards prevention type services. One half of the settlement will be given upfront and the	

	<p>remaining amount over 18 years. It was asked how the number of addiction cases was reported, Tom answered the state legislators are still working on how the money will be divided between the counties and cities. Linda asked how the number of people impacted was determined, John explained emergency room data is one way, other ways include rehab centers.</p> <p>Board members and staff introduced themselves.</p>	
<p>Health Officer's Report</p> <p>COVID-19 Update (Information Item)</p> <p>Staffing Update (Information Item)</p> <p>Annual Report (Information Item)</p> <p><i>Jeff Coombs</i></p>	<p>Jeff presented a COVID-19 Status Report. Nationwide there have been over one million Covid related deaths, but it is hard to know the real number of those impacted. We are learning more and more about the long-term health effects from Covid. The Delta strain caused the most hospitalizations and Omicron spiked much faster which resulted in a higher level of herd immunity. Omicron was a less virulent strain, but it still resulted in a large number of hospitalizations and deaths. Though our state and county are in a low community level for now, we are seeing an uptick in cases in the northeast which will eventually head towards the west. The CDC has a new tool for determining community level risk that is determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. We expect to see an uptick this summer then a bigger uptick this fall and winter. It is projected that Covid will not come to an end, instead it will become like an influenza. A new treatment is projected to be available by fall and will be most effective if taken within the first 5 days of becoming infected. Jeff showed a graph of all the variants. He noted we will probably see vaccines that are effective against multivariant. John explained how sequencing is done to identify genetic mutations of Covid variants and how they identify different strains of influenza.</p> <p>Tooele County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21,567 total cases • 699 total hospitalizations • 102 deaths • Current 7-day case rate: 8.3 cases/day • 14-day case rate per 100,000: 107 • Incidence Growth at 1.18 indicating a steady increase in cases • Omicron Variant peak, 7-day case rate, 279.7 cases/day • Wastewater Covid remains low and plateaued 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent Positivity on Test/Test up to 10.42% was down to 2% <p>Jeff gave a staffing update. Deeanna Croasmun recently started as a Prevention Specialist for our Wendover community and Rebeca Snodgrass will start at the Grantsville Senior Center as an Activity Specialist on May 23rd.</p> <p>The group was given a copy of the Tooele County Health Department Annual Report. Jeff thanked Amy Bate for her work in compiling information provided by each division to create the report.</p>	
<p>Financial Update Proposed Budget Adjustment- Kitchen Remodel (Information Item)</p>	<p>Tom asked for a motion to add an additional agenda item- Proposed Budget Adjustment- Kitchen Remodel (Information Item) was added. Jeff explained that last year it was budgeted to remodel the kitchen area inside the building that is shared with USU Extension. This work was never done and some of the funds were used to make repairs to the Grantsville Senior Center. Also, the kitchen couldn't be remodeled because the auditorium area was used to hold the COVID vaccine clinic. Jeff added that USU will also contribute funds for this remodel project. About \$50,000 is currently in the budget and the board is being asked to approve transferring \$25,000 from the Capital Improvement account to the operating budget for this project.</p>	<p>Devan motioned to add the additional item Proposed Budget Adjustment-Kitchen Remodel to the agenda, Neil seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Neil motioned to approve the \$25,000 request, Brad amended the motion by adding transferring \$25,000 from the Capital Improvement fund for kitchen remodel, Neil accepted the amendment to the motion, Mat seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
<p>Employee Compensation Adjustments- Transfer funds from Fund Balance (Action Item)</p>	<p>Tom explained that Tooele County had a thorough and independent study done on wages paid to Tooele County employees compared to what other similar municipalities were paying their employees for the same jobs. The study resulted in a recommendation of raises from 0% to 8% in raises. The County Council adopted the study recommendation and implemented the wage increases. Wages will be reviewed annually. Brad explained that about \$261,000 would need to be transferred from the reserve fund, final numbers will be given to Brad in June.</p>	<p>Matt made a motion to approve transferring funds to use towards the employee wage adjustment, Devan seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
<p>Proposed Budget Adjustments-</p>	<p>Brad reported that last year \$42,000 was budgeted to purchase a multi-passenger vehicle, but since several vehicles are in need of repair and are approaching high mileage, it was</p>	<p>Linda made a motion to explore the lease option before purchasing</p>

<p>Automobile (Action Item) Financial Report (Action Item)</p> <p><i>Brad Gillies</i></p>	<p>decided to purchase two passenger vehicles instead of one multi-passenger type vehicle. A request to move an additional \$25,000 from the fund balance is being requested. Tom explained that after this board approves the requests, they are then presented to the County Council for approval. A public hearing will be held for the budget adjustments. Matt mentioned that Tooele County School District have changed to a lease system for their vehicles instead of purchasing and this switch has saved the district money, Neil added Grantsville City has done the same for their police vehicle fleet.</p> <p>Brad summarized the following for the Financial Report for the Four Months Ended April 30, 2022 (33% of year)</p> <p>REVENUE- Operating revenue through April 30, 2022 was about \$1,348,000 or about 28% of the annual budget. Payments for state contracts and grants were about \$969,000 or about 28% of budget. Payments from the State for April had not been received as of the end of April. Fees for services were about \$379,000 or about 28% of budget. The receipt of fees for some services is seasonal.</p> <p>EXPENSES- Operating expenses were about \$1,694,000 or about 27% of the annual budget. All departments were under budget. COVID related direct expenses, as well as some allocated departmental expenses are funded through COVID grants. Much of our COVID grant funding runs through mid-2023.</p> <p>NET OPERATING- Net operating shortfall for the four months was about \$346,000 or about 23% of what was budgeted for the year. This shortfall is covered by other budgeted sources including a county contribution of about \$455,000 for the year and about \$893,000 for the health tax levy. The 2022 budget also includes about \$124,000 to be used from the Department's accumulated fund balance.</p> <p>Linda asked where COVID money is being spent, Brad answered personnel, testing, vaccine, contact tracing etc. Pam asked if we are paying for the wastewater samples from our COVID funds, Jeff answered funding comes from the state, but our epidemiologist does analyze the data from the samples.</p>	<p>new vehicles, Pam seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion tabled.</p> <p>Neil motioned to accept the Financial Report as presented, Anthony seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion passed.</p>
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<p>Environmental Health Update Proposal to Increase Onsite Wastewater Fee (Action Item) <i>Bryan Slade</i></p>	<p>At the last meeting Bryan requested approval to increase the septic system permit fee from \$300 to \$350. He explained that for more than ten years now the health department has been charging a \$300 fee for each septic system permit. Since 2001, the state Division of Drinking Water Quality (DWQ) has collected \$25 from each permit fee from all local health departments to help fund its septic system operator certification program. As of July 1, 2022, the DWQ is increasing the fee they collect to \$40 per permit. To help offset this fee increase, a proposal is being made to increase the fee collected here at the health department from \$300 to \$350. In addition to this increase being collected by the state an online payment system was also implemented which also takes a portion of each fee paid online. He feels this proposed increase request will also help offset these fees. The motion was tabled at the last meeting until more information could be presented at this meeting. Brad and Bryan worked on a cost analysis for the program. A handout was given to the group showing a cost breakdown from January – December 2021. Brad explained that out of the \$245,000 that the county contributes \$23,000 goes to this program. Jeff explained that some programs are covered fully by the fees they collect, and some are not. Linda said she would like to see the fee raised to \$400 now instead of only \$350 and then having to raise the fee again next year. Bryan said he is on pace to issue 92 septic permits this year. Pam asked about adding a mileage fee according to the septic location as other counties do, Jeff felt they shouldn't be penalized for the distance they live from the Health Department. Tom felt that people on public sewer systems shouldn't have to pay for new growth.</p>	<p>Matt motioned to approve the proposal to increase the Onsite Wastewater Permit Fee to \$350 from \$300 with a charge that the fee is revisited in one year to see if it needs to be increased again so the program is not having to be subsidized, Pam seconded the motion, all voted in favor.</p>
<p>Discussion of Advanced Septic Tank Systems (Information Item) <i>Tom Tripp</i></p>	<p>Bryan explained that the old Nu Cleaner's building that was next to the Tooele County Senior Center was recently demolished due to containing asbestos. Grant money from the EPA and others is available to test the soil. Bryan will report on this project once it is completed.</p> <p>Bryan mentioned that the lab that analyzes the water samples from permitted pools and spas are increasing their lab fees, he will propose raising our fees at the next meeting.</p> <p>Tom started a discussion on Health Regulation #12 Wastewater Disposal. The preference is for new construction to be connected to a sewer system but allows for septic tanks if the sewer system is not available. Tom read over Section 3.2 – For new subdivisions in the unincorporated areas of the Tooele Valley proposing to use conventional septic systems for</p>	

	<p>wastewater disposal, all lots within the proposed subdivision must be a minimum of 5 acres in size, lots less than 5 acres must use an Alternative Onsite Wastewater System as defined in section 9.0. Jeff noted the state rule defines what qualifies these types of systems. Tom said the nitrate study suggests we should do that. Tom wanted to discuss that this requirement only applies to unincorporated areas, but there are no physical boundaries that affect wastewater, it can and will affect downstream/neighbors etc. Should we consider implementing this restriction across the entire valley? Another point to consider is the percent of reduction of nitrates, could the system reduction allow for use on a smaller than 5-acre lot? Bryan advised the results of nitrate output are required to be submitted to the health department from those currently using these advanced systems. Tom proposed that staff measure the outputs of these systems versus conventional systems. Tom asked if we should impose the standard more broadly or leave the incorporated areas out? Bryan explained that when the groundwater study was done a few years ago, it was focused mainly on Erda due to the growth and the study did show an increase in nitrate levels. Bryan added that Erda has since incorporated meaning the language in the rule needs to be changed. Neil stated infrastructure needs to be provided and until it is they will continue to review case by case. Jeff stressed that we need to prevent the problem, not treat it as paying for nitrate reduction is extremely expensive. He expressed that protecting water as the most valuable of resources. Jeff said a good study would include outputs from both advanced and conventional systems. Tom wants the study that was done by Hansen, Allen and Luce brought to this board to compare the results and make a decision. Tom added that we need to consider the 25-year life span of a septic system. Jeff noted that nitrate levels are increasing in public water systems, not just in private wells. The health consequences of high nitrate levels in drinking water were explained to the group. Matt asked how long it would take to gather data from the advanced systems? Jeff explained it would be very hard for us to do our own studies but could use data from existing scientific studies. Bryan said existing advanced systems are required to test and report every 6 months. Bryan said our policy is to not allow advanced systems in lots that are less than one acre. Tom suggested adding that policy to the regulation. Neil stated Grantsville requires connection to the sewer system if within 300 feet but when there is significant elevation issues, they are working these out. Progress on this issue will be reported at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Community Health Update Proposal to Increase</p>	<p>At the last meeting Amy presented a handout showing a request to increase fees for testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. The request was tabled until a cost analysis of the program could be reviewed. Amy and Brad created and presented a STD Testing Cost</p>	<p>Neil motioned to approve the proposed fee changes, Pam and Anthony seconded the motion, all</p>

<p>STD Testing Fee (Action Item) <i>Amy Royal</i></p>	<p>Analysis to the group. Amy explained that with the hiring of an additional nurse it allows for more specific testing, additional site testing and she noted that our county has increased in population which has resulted in an increased number of tests being requested. She explained that no fee is charged for the following priority populations: adolescents and young adults and their partners (age 15-24), men who have sex with men and their partners, pregnant women and their partners, contacts to syphilis and gonorrhea and non-white clients who engage in high-risk sexual behavior; the state pays for their tests and treatment (we can charge an office visit fee), but all others not in this group are charged for testing and treatment. She also explained that the health department is unable to bill health insurance for testing or treatment. This program includes many steps including, patient check-in, charting, gathering history, appointments, call back for results and notifying potentially exposed partners etc. She would like to charge for this program similar to how the Vaccine For Children program charges, which is a set fee per immunization or whatever they can afford to pay. Brad added that \$4,000 is received from the state each year, in addition a portion of the Mil Levy funds collected help cover this program. Linda expressed concern that raising the fee could impact those coming in for testing. Pam asked if someone comes in and can't afford to pay the testing/treatment fees are they given information on resources available such as Medicaid, Amy confirmed that they are given education and resources.</p>	<p>voted in favor.</p>
<p>Aging Services Update (Information Item) <i>Jamie Zwerin</i></p>	<p>Jamie expressed her appreciation to the board for approving the funding to make the repairs to the Grantsville Senior Center. She invited the group to a luncheon at the center on June 16th at 11:30. Jamie handed out information on the Veteran Directed Care program. She noted that statewide this program is very under-utilized. She explained that the program is designed to help veterans stay in their home and other services. This program is not medical based, but those who qualify must also be registered with the Veteran's Affairs system. Jamie encouraged the group to share information about this program with anyone they feel could benefit from it.</p>	
<p>Board Member Comments and/or Concerns</p>	<p>Anthony announced the Utah Test and Training Range will hold an advisory meeting June 2nd at 10am at the Emergency Management building. Neil thanked the group for their efforts. Tom spoke of legislation that was proposed at the last session that bodies such as this board and others that accept public comment need to develop a policy. Tooele County Attorney</p>	

	Colin Winchester is working on one for the county and he thinks that we should probably adopt it. The policy will allow the public to comment but not take over the meeting. Tom will bring a copy to the next meeting to consider adopting.	
Public Comments and/or Concerns	No comments were given.	
Meeting Adjourn	Tom entertained a motion to adjourn.	Neil made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm, Matt seconded the motion, all were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Attachments: Actual vs. Budget Four Months Ended April 30, 2022, COVID-19 Status Report May 12, 2022, STD Testing Cost Analysis, Wastewater Cost Analysis Year Ended Dec. 31, 2021