



EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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ANTHONY COPELAND, MAYOR

Dr. Paula Benchik Abrinko, Health Officer

Diana Garcia-Burns, Health Director

MINUTES

HEALTH FINANCE AND BOARD MEETING

September 6, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Health Department Lobby Conference Room

100 W. Chicago Avenue

East Chicago, IN 46312

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88327632089?pwd=aCt3eVZZUm1pS3BKNHc4ZWlvZDAwdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 2763 2089

Passcode: 367457

One Tap Mobile

312-626-6799

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Loretta Parker called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken and in attendance were Dr. Matthew Libiran (in-person), Loretta Parker (in-person), Dr. Rev. James Wade (in-person), and Dr. Sabrina Reed (virtual). Also in attendance were Dr. Paula Benchik-Abrinko (in-person), Diana Garcia-Burns (in-person) and Attorney Nick Snow (in-person). Natalie Adams (in-person) arrived after roll call was taken. Absent was Brenda Walker.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- Review and approve minutes from following meeting:
 - i. Health Finance and Board Meeting Minutes from August 2, 2023
 - Loretta Parker requested a motion for approval of Health Finance and Board Meeting Minutes from August 2, 2023.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade made a motion to approve Health Finance and Board Meeting minutes and Dr. Matthew Libiran second the motion. With no questions or concerns, vote was taken:
Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed - Yes Wade - Yes All in favor - motion carries
- Review and approve the following payroll warrants:
 - i. Payroll Warrant 080423 dated August 4, 2023 in the amount of \$22,743.13
 - Loretta Parker requested a motion for approval of Payroll Warrant 080423 dated August 4, 2023 in the amount of \$22,743.13.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade made a motion to approve Payroll Warrant and Dr. Matthew Libiran second the motion. With no questions or concerns, vote was taken:
Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed - Yes Wade - Yes All in favor - motion carries

- ii. Payroll Warrant 081823 dated August 18, 2023 in the amount of \$23,100.33
- iii. Payroll Warrant 090123 dated September 1, 2023 in the amount of \$22,648.77
 - Loretta Parker requested a motion for approval of Payroll Warrant 081823 dated August 18, 2023 in the amount of \$23,100.33 and September 1, 2023 in the amount of \$22,648.77.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade made a motion to approve Payroll Warrant and Dr. Matthew Libiran second the motion. With no questions or concerns, vote was taken:
Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed - Yes Wade - Yes All in favor - motion carries
- Review and approve the following claim warrant:
 - i. Claim Warrant 082923HB dated August 29, 2023 in the amount of \$871.45
 - ii. Claim Warrant 080623HB dated August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$35,505.67
 - Loretta Parker requested a motion for approval of Claim Warrants 082923HB dated August 29, 2023 in the amount of \$871.45 and 080623HB dated August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$35,505.67.
 - Dr. Libiran made a motion to approve Claim Warrants and Dr. Rev. James Wade second the motion. With no questions or concerns, vote was taken:
Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed - Yes Wade - Yes All in favor - motion carries
- Review and approve past due Microbac invoices:
 - Loretta Parker requested a motion to approve past due Microbac invoices.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade made a motion to approve past due Microbac invoices and Dr. Matthew Libiran second the motion. With no questions or concerns, vote was taken:
Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed - Yes Wade - Yes All in favor - motion carries

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

V. DISCUSSION: None

VI. DIRECTOR UPDATE:

Diana Garcia-Burns stated she is still waiting for the Animal Control vehicle for Animal Control. She stated she will do a follow up; it was approved last year, but we never got the vehicle. She put in for Health First Indiana grant and it was approved last week. The initial amount given last meeting was increased to \$318,000.00. Diana will revise the grant and Nick will be preparing the resolution to go to the council. We are really excited about that. Diana stated she does want to get a lead assessor, because our lead cases are going up and then a medical health liaison person who can help put all this together, because a lot of times Valerie and Diana have to leave the Health Department to go do lead testing or do follow up and then it leaves a skeleton crew in the department. We are still trying to get the information in regards to scanning our records. Jasmine has been following up with that. It looks like it is going to be a little bit less than \$10,000.00, but she thinks it will be more than that once Ms. Toby comes and looks at everything. Everything else is still pretty much the same. We are still trying to get those animals out of Animal Control. Dr. Benchik got some vendor information for us to do the pet fair next year. We got our dogs distemper shots, one of the vet techs out of Chicago came and gave the dogs the shots. Two of the dogs were adopted and they had vet checked and had rabies vaccine. Spay and neutering is very expensive and she does not know if we have the funding to spay and neuter every dog, but we do make sure the dogs are going for their vet checks and rabies vaccine. Natalie stated she know we get a lot of grants for other stuff, but are there no grants for Animal Control? Diana stated she can look into that and ask our other agencies that we work with. Dr. Benchik stated, “There is a program at Humane Indiana where there is a vet and it is funded through some legacy that someone passed away and left all this money and it can be used by anybody. The vet right now is out, but it is done at an extremely affordable amount. We had a meeting just recently and really good adoptable animals they are going to go ahead and use Crossroads. In the meantime, our people are not trained of how to deal with some of these dangerous breeds of animals and how to break up animal fights without them getting hurt. Landheim is putting a program on how to train them. They have already trained people at other Animal Control places and our guys would go and learn what to do. It would actually be better for the city, because if there is an incident these guys have been trained, they are not just in a job. I will look into that vet who does it from Humane Indiana. It is extremely affordable. The rabies vaccine, there is a traveling vet and I gave the card to Arnita. The vet will come to us instead of having to go to Crossroads for the rabies vaccine. At least these people that are adopting are getting dogs that

are adoptable, because they are going to other shelters and they are already vetted with vaccines and it puts us behind the eight ball.” Diana stated they are also coming up on doing their vector control exam – one this month and the other two in October.

VII. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE:

Dr. Benchik stated as far as the new Covid vaccine all the statements she has received from the state are they do not know yet and whether RSV is going to be included in the vaccine, but the cases are climbing. They are 20% higher now. She asked Dr. Libiran if they are high in the hospital. Dr. Libiran stated not inpatient. Diana added the state said it is 20% increase in the surge and 20% increase in hospitalization in the State of Indiana. Dr. Libiran stated general in our community he has seen quite a surge in cases, but luckily they are treated as an outpatient with Paxlovid. He knows of one hospital case where the patient had immunocompromised status, but did not know his vaccination status, but he was really sick from Covid. Diana stated this morning she sent an email to Sandra and Yessenia regarding sending back out our policy for the city because she received a couple calls last night from employees of the city and department heads regarding they had employees who had Covid so I said to just recirculate that and it has gone out. Diana reminded the board the Health Department is not testing and she is getting calls every day from people who are not happy, but we stopped in December when the state stopped funding testing. Walgreens is testing by appointment only. HealthLinc tests by appointment only for only their patients. Dr. Libiran will check for 219 Network and still has some tests through a grant. There is currently no release date for the newest Covid shot.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Loretta Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Dr. Rev. James Wade. The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.