

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

August 14, 2013  
9:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Chair Lautner.

Roll call.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present:

Glen Rineer, Benzie County Board of Commissioners  
Dr. Richard Nielsen, Benzie County Member at Large  
Melinda Lautner, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners  
Carolyn Rentenbach, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners  
Marge McCulloch, Leelanau County Member at Large

Excused:

Lisa Tucker, Benzie County Board of Commissioners

Administration Present:

Dodie Putney, Director of Administrative Services, Interim Health Officer  
Tom Fountain, Environmental Health Director

Staff: Tom Rademacher, video conference, Leelanau office  
Sharon Husted, video conference, Leelanau office

Guests: Mark Miller, MDCH, participated by speaker phone

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: by Rineer, seconded by McCulloch to approve the agenda.

**Voice vote: 5 ayes**

**Motion carried**

Public Comments:

None

**1. Health Officer Position Vacancy:**

Mark Miller explained the long term options available to the Health Department for filling the Health Officer vacancy. Either post the position and hire a new Health Officer, contract with another Health Department for their Health Officer services, or try to convince another district to dissolve and then form a new district to include Benzie and Leelanau County.

Lautner asked Mark Miller if Crawford is successful in his lawsuit, what situation does the Board of Health find itself in if they hire a new Health Officer and the court orders Crawford to be reinstated. Miller stated he does not know whether a court can reinstate Crawford as it is really up to the Board of Health to hire a Health Officer, that would be a legal question. Discussion followed.

Lautner questioned when Fountain became the Environmental Health Director. Do we hire a Health Officer/Environmental Health Director, or do we hire a Health Officer/Personal Health Director? Discussion followed.

Lautner discussed posting the position as interim as we have no idea how long this lawsuit will go on.

Lautner reported Lisa Danto is interested in whatever position we decide to post. Nielsen stated there are very specific requirements for Health Officers. Putney stated there is also one person internally interested in the Personal Health Director position and is qualified for the position. Lautner asked if this person would be interested in the position on an interim basis. Putney stated no, on a permanent basis. Michelle Klein who is our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is the person interested, however, her position would have to be replaced if she were to be hired as the Personal Health Director. Rentenbach stated we need to hire both positions on an interim basis. Discussion followed.

Mark Miller explained the requirements of a Health Officer.

Lautner mentioned she spoke with a Grand Traverse County Commissioner who asked if we should have dialogue for combining the Health Departments again. Stated when Benzie-Leelanau broke away in the 90's it was because Benzie and Leelanau Counties did not feel they were getting the services required or information out of the Department that they deserved. It would be a very complex move due to our buildings, etc. Nielsen stated District 10 is aware of our situation. Has had discussion with their Health Officer and they would be interested in talking to us about falling under their supervision.

Mark Miller stated Linda VanGills from District 10 and Linda Yaroch from The Health Department of Northwest Michigan have both volunteered to be advisors to Dodie during her acting appointment, but at the same time feels both of them would be willing to provide other assistances needed. For instance if we needed a Nursing Director and wouldn't be able to fill it right away, one or both would volunteer some of their staff to help with the oversight of the program if needed. Contract with them for their Personal Health Supervision similar to the contract we have in place for our Medical Director with Grand Traverse County.

Lautner reported we have a letter from Linda Yaroch.

Mark Miller recommended setting up a description of what you think the duties are going to be in the nature of the oversight, there would have to be an agreement with the personnel at the Health Department who would be providing the services, for instance the Health Officer, or whoever they thought could provide the oversight, and then their

Board of Health would have to approve the contract. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** by Nielsen, seconded by Rineer to have Dodie Putney and Debbie Aldridge work together in recommending to this board an interim agreement to provide Personal Health services administration to our department from either District 10 or The Health Department of Northwest Michigan. This will be brought to the September 26, 2013 Board of Health meeting.

**Voice vote: 5 ayes      Motion carried**

**Public Comments:**

None

**Board Comments:**

Lautner commented on the need for a Building Transition Committee meeting as there is much to discuss. Lautner stated she would like to have a meeting with the attorney from MMRMA. Nielsen commented he was meeting with her at this building at 10:00 a.m. Possibly she could come down and talk to the board while she is here. Discussion followed.

A Building Transition Committee meeting set for September 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Benzie Community Resource Center.

**Motion:** by Dr. Nielsen, seconded by McCulloch to adjourn the meeting.

**Voice vote: 5 ayes      Motion carried**

Chair Lautner adjourned meeting at 9:50 a.m.

  
Melinda Lautner, Chair

  
Heidi Roper, Recording Secretary

