

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

February 11, 2025

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on January 14, 2025.

Members Present

Mayor, Elizabeth Slamka
Ruth Lolli
Jeff Bonnell
Joseph Richmond, MBA
Amy Sibcy
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
Tiffani Baggett

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS
Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2025

Motion: Mr. Richmond moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the January Board of Health minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Lolli, Bonnell, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett, Miller, Baggett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-January 2025

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that a new budget report was included in the packet. This report is easier to read than previous reports and shows previous year's budgets in comparison to the current year's budget. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that in addition to the normal expense and revenue reports, these new reports will be included in the board of health packets moving forward.

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the January financial report.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Lolli, Bonnell, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett, Miller, Baggett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

EDUCATION PRESENTATION-Air Quality Update-Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (Kerri Castlen)

Kerri Castlen with the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency provided the Board of Health with an air quality update. Ms. Castlen explained the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (SWOAQA) serves Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren Counties. SWOAQA monitors air quality and regulates industrial air emissions for Ohio EPA and U.S. EPA. SWOAQA was established in the 1880's and works with local, state and federal agencies, businesses, communities and citizens to achieve and maintain health air quality. SWOAQA permits industrial air pollution sources as well as inspects and monitors compliance of those industrial air pollution sources. SWOAQA monitors and measures pollutants, including air toxins and issues Air Quality Index. SWOAQA also conducts pollen and mold counts as well as issue air quality advisories.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is widely used with a color-coded scale, no limits. The AQI is multi-pollutant and clearly communicates the air quality to the public. The AQI is the EPA's tool for communicating daily air quality and has been used since 1976 to provide an easy-to-understand daily report on air quality. There's a U.S. AQI for five major pollutants that are regulated by the Clean Air Act: ozone, particle pollution (also called particulate matter), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. The AQI for each pollutant is generally based on the health-based national air quality standard for that pollutant and the scientific information that supports the standard. AQI is available on the SWOAQA website and by calling the hotline at 513-946-7753. Ms. Castlen provided the board with a map illustrating the monitoring sites and sources in the city of Middletown.

On February 7, 2024, the U.S. EPA strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter to protect public health from harmful health impacts, such as heat attacks and premature death, as well as address the scientific evidence that the current standard doesn't sufficiently protect human health.

Ms. Castlen informed the board that Cliffs was issued a notice of violation date February 7, 2024 for a failed stack test on continuous pinking line. The action plan included work on control devices (wet scrubber). Cliffs was retested on January 11, 2024 and found to be back in compliance. Middletown Coke Corporation received a notice of violation dated January 14, 2025 for a failed particulate stack test on the main stack-heat recovery. A compliance plan is expected later this month. Stein, Inc. processes slag from Cliffs and has a history of complaints. Notices of violation have been issued on October 15, 2021, September 14, 2023 and November 21, 2023. The final settlement on the enforcement case was reached on July 8, 2024 mandating Stein to pay a penalty of \$40,500, submit operation and maintenance plans and install high definition cameras.

Ms. Castlen informed the board that anyone can make air quality complaints by calling 513-946-7777. Complaints types are as follows: particulate, odor, fugitive dust, open burning, smoke, CFC and anti-tampering. The majority of Middletown complaints are particulate (48%) and odor (38%). Cliffs receives around 30 complaints annually and Middletown Coke Company receives around 20 complaints annually.

SWOAQA established an agency workgroup to work on a variety of issues in Middletown. The workgroup focuses on answering complaints, responding to non-attainment issues, compliance issues, spikes at air monitoring sites and inspection coordination.

Ms. Castlen stated that air pollutants in Southwest Ohio continue to trend downward.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

None.

1st Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-01-Allowing Health Commissioner to Suspend a Food Service or Retail Food Establishment License

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to read MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-01 by title only.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Lolli, Bonnell, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett, Miller, Baggett). No-0. **Motion Passed.**

Ms. Ealy informed the board that this ordinance provides the Health Commissioner the ability to suspend a food license if immediate danger is observed. This ordinance has already been in place, however; the appeals process is now referenced in the ordinance.

Mayor Slamka asked for clarifications on what would qualify as immediate danger.

Ms. Ealy gave an example of a facility that had mouse droppings all throughout the facility about a month ago. Ms. Ealy asked the facility to close while they remedied the situation. If the facility had refused, the Health Commissioner could have suspended the license until the issue had been resolved. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it is rare that this ordinance is used, most often times facilities are willingly to cooperate with health department recommendations.

MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-01-An ordinance authorizing the health commissioner to take action that may be taken by the Board of Health as a licenser pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3717.29(D)(1) to suspend a license issued to a retail food establishment or Ohio Revised Code section 3717.49(C)(1) to suspend a license issued to a food service operation.

1st Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-02-Allowing Health Commissioner, Any Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training to Take Non-Emergency Enforcement Action.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to read MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-02 by title only.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Lolli, Bonnell, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett, Miller, Baggett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Ms. Ealy stated that this ordinance allows the Inspectors and health commissioner to carry out non-enforcement activities. The revisions include new language that references the appeals process and updated the incorrect code section identified by Ohio Department of Agriculture on our recent survey.

An ordinance authorizing the Health Commissioner, any Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training employed by the Board of Health to take action that may be taken by the Board as licenser pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3717.29(C)(1) in a retail food establishment or Ohio Revised Code section 3717.49(B)(1) in a food service operation.

2024 Annual Report

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that each local health department is required by Ohio Department of Health to submit an annual report by January 15th and the Annual Financial Report is due by April 15th with the goal of making public health more defined. The 2024 Annual Report is included in the board packet.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the City had some IT issues with email over the past week, an Ohio Public Health Communication System (OPHCS) alert was sent out to state and local partners.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that CMHD had participated in an emergency preparedness exercise and stated that Ms. Corbin will elaborate further in the Director of Nursing Report.

Ms. Phillips Carter thanked Ms. Ealy for presenting on her behalf at the City Council Workshop Meeting.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she is trying to keep apprised of all of the new executive orders being put into place by the government. Many of these orders will directly affect public health.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the January communicable disease case numbers.

C. auris	1
Campylobacteriosis	2
Chlamydia infection	24
COVID-19	160
CPO	1
Gonococcal Infection	5
Hepatitis B	4
Hepatitis C	5
Influenza-associated hospitalization	21
Salmonellosis	2
Tuberculosis	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that the majority of reportable diseases are reported directly to her at CMHD, however; tuberculosis is monitored and controlled by Butler County. Ms. Corbin will be reaching out to Butler County to follow up on the one case of tuberculosis that was reported on a Middletown resident.

Ms. Corbin explained that influenza cases are only reported in the patient is hospitalized, there has been a slight increase in influenza-associated hospitalizations in comparison to the 2024 numbers.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that CMHD was well represented at the Chemical Table Top Exercise which was held at the Educational Service Center and overall everyone did a great job. Ms. Corbin is currently completing the after-action report which will include an improvement plan.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that Ohio Public Health Communication System (OPHCS) is our back-up emergency notification system and she is able to include board member's emails so that they can also receive emergency updates.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that three sets of plans in January and two new facilities were licensed. Ms. Ealy stated that there are still nine tobacco retailers that have not submitted applications or fees for their 2025 T21 licenses. Ms. Ealy stated that 406 of 684 septic system owners/operators have paid for their septic permits. Final notices will be mailed to the remaining 278 homeowners at the end of February. Fees will be assessed to property taxes if payment is not received within 30 days of the final notice.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that FSO/RFE renewal applications for the 2025 were mailed out at the end of January. All fees for license renewals are due by March 1st.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that the 2023 campground survey completed by Ohio Department of Health was included in the board packet. The survey was completed in 2023 for years 2018-2022. The recommendation noted on the survey which was to ensure all fee categories are included in the cost analysis.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD staff continues with Accela trainings.

Board Member Open Discussion


Mr. Bonnell informed the board that the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors was notified that the state reimbursement program for indigent cremations has been restored going back to November of 2024.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that CMHD will turn in the appropriate paperwork for reimbursements for all qualifying indigents that have been paid for out of City funds.

Ms. Lolli informed board members that the next Walk With a Doc will be held Saturday, February 15th from 9-9:45am at the Atrium YMCA. This month's topic will be early heart attack prevention. The March Walk With a Doc will be held at the downtown YMCA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43AM. The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2025 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.


Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Secretary
Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health