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The Cleveland County Board of Health met on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., at the Cleveland County Health Department.

Board members present: Charles Hayek, Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, Robert Miller, Steve Rackley, Michael Alexander, Gina Ayscue, Johnny Hutchins, Tom Spurling and Theresa Taylor.

Health Department staff present: Dorothea Wyant, Rodella Gold, Sam Lockridge, Alisa Leonard, Nathan McNeilly, Anne Short, Brittney Smith and Debbie Dyer.

John Bridges, representing the County Attorney, was present.

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

Chair Hayek called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Robert Miller gave the invocation.

**CITIZEN RECOGNITION:**

No citizens requested to appear before the Board.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE MAY 12, 2015 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING:**

Chair Hayek asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda for the May 12, 2015 Board of Health meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Kendalyn Lutz-Craver, with a second by Michael Alexander to adopt the proposed agenda for the May 12, 2015 Board of Health meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2015 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES:**

Chair Hayek presented the April 14, 2015 Board of Health meeting minutes for consideration of approval.

**Motion:** There being no corrections, additions, nor deletions to the minutes of the April 14, 2015 Board of Health meeting minutes, motion was made by Tom Spurling, with a second by Robert Miller, that they be approved as written. Motion carried unanimously.

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE:**

Sam Lockridge stated that on January 12, 2013, at the request of the Board of County Commissioners, the Board of Health appointed an Advisory Committee to address the issue of animal overpopulation in Cleveland County. Committee members were selected and approved by the Board of Health and the committee held their first of eight meetings on March 13, 2013. Mr. Lockridge reviewed recommendations the committee has brought to the Board for approval to date as amendments to the Cleveland County Animal Control Ordinance that would substantially increase penalty fees for animals running at large while in estrus; changes in verbiage to clearly identify animal control officers as animal cruelty investigators, and an amendment to establish standards of care for large commercial dog and cat breeding facilities in Cleveland County.

At their last meeting held on February 25, 2015, the Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Health amend the Cleveland County Animal Control Ordinance to require felines to wear tags and collars unless they are implanted with a microchip with the owner's contact information. A copy of the proposed amendment was included in the packet of information received by the board. Mr. Lockridge noted the microchip would enable Animal Control Officers to identify the status of rabies vaccinations for animals housed at the Animal Shelter. A copy of the proposed amendment was included in the packet of information received by the board. Mr. Lockridge explained that from a public health prospective, it is impossible to identify an animal owner in the event of rabies exposure unless they are wearing a rabies tag or are implanted with a microchip. The process of implanting microchips and costs for the procedure were discussed.

**Motion: Gina Ayscue made the motion to accept the proposed amendment to the Cleveland County Animal Control Ordinance and forward to the Board of Commissioners as a recommendation for consideration of approval. The motion was seconded by Kendalyn Lutz-Craver and carried unanimously.**

**ANIMAL CONTROL LICENSE/REGISTRATION FEE PROGRAM PROPOSAL:**

As a recommendation from the Advisory Committee to Reduce the Population of Animals in Cleveland County, Sam Lockridge presented an Animal Control License/Registration Fee Program Proposal for consideration by the Board of Health. The proposal was included in the information packet received by board members. Mr. Lockridge stated the advisory committee feels strongly that the solution to reducing the overpopulation of animals in Cleveland County is prevention by providing an incentive to spay and neuter pets. Mr. Lockridge noted that if this proposal is adopted by County Commissioners, the year following implementation will be used

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to gain compliance and to educate residents about the program. The License/Registration Fee Program would include cats, dogs and ferrets over four months of age that are required to be vaccinated against rabies pursuant to G.S. 130A-185(a). The program would require owners of altered animals to pay a registration fee, while owners of unaltered animals would be required to pay a privilege license fee. Details of the proposed Registration Fees/Privilege License Fees were reviewed and discussed by the board, with a recommendation that the proposal be amended to include Lifetime Fees under the category of Differential Fees. Proposed Civil Penalties were identified and discussed. Mr. Lockridge identified the formulary used to estimate potential revenue generated by the program, and details were discussed by the board. Mr. Lockridge proposed that five percent of revenue earned from registration fees be used to continue providing vaccinations against disease to animals boarded at the Animal Shelter in order to maintain a healthy population within the Shelter, three and one half percent be used for education and promotion, with the remainder used to continue financing the four free rabies clinics sponsored annually by the Cleveland County Health Department Animal Control Program. Mr. Lockridge proposed that fifty percent of revenue earned from the privilege license fees be used to support spay/neuter options for the indigent through special programs, twenty-five percent be used for operational expenses for the Animal Shelter/Animal Control Program, and twenty-five percent designated to develop and implement future operations and programs. Mr. Lockridge reviewed the progress made in improving the Cleveland County Animal Control Program within the past two years, such as capital improvements made to the Animal Shelter, increased animal adoption and rescue, the significant decrease in the number of animals euthanized at the Animal Shelter and the elimination of the chamber used to euthanize animals. Mr. Lockridge emphasized these improvements have made the Cleveland County Animal Control one of the most successful in the State, however, funds are needed for sustainability and continued improvement.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Robert Miller that the Board of Health approve the proposal for a Cleveland County Animal Control License/Registration Fee Program as proposed by the Advisory Board to Reduce the Overpopulation of Animals in Cleveland County, with the amendment to include Lifetime Fees under the category of Differential Fees, and forward to the Board of County Commissioners as a recommendation for their consideration of approval. The motion was seconded by Michael Alexander and passed unanimously.

### **MISCELLENOUS BUSINESS**

#### **Health Director Annual Job Performance Evaluation/Job Description Review:**

Chair Hayek stated that he conducted the Health Directors' annual job performance evaluation and reviewed the job description with Dorothea Wyant on May 12, 2015. A copy of the Health Director's job description was provided to the Board of Health members for review. He stated

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that Ms. Wyant received an excellent performance evaluation, and thanked Ms. Wyant for her positive leadership skills. Chair Hayek thanked the Board of Health for the input they provided for Ms. Wyants' evaluation. Board of Health members reviewed and discussed the job description of the Health Director.

Outgoing Board of Health Member:

Dorothea Wyant stated that the Cleveland County Health Department has celebrated many successes over the years and credits that to an excellent staff and the support and direction of an exceptional Board of Health. Due to the relocation of her family, one valuable member of the board, Ms. Gina Ayscue will end her term of service tonight as the Registered Nurse representative. Chair Hayek expressed appreciation to Ms. Ayscue for her service to the citizens of Cleveland County, her advocacy of public health and her support and contributions to the Board of Health during her term of service. Ms. Ayscue stated that she is excited to begin a new career with Wake Medical Center as their Rehabilitation Admissions Nurse, focusing on patients with spinal cord injuries, and thanked the Board for their support during her term, stating that it had been a pleasure to serve as a Board of Health member.

Health Department Facility Update:

Construction on the new facility continues to progress slightly ahead of schedule. Air conditioning units are being installed at this time, plumbers and electricians are working on the second floor and dry wall, primer and painting is in progress. Health Department staff has begun working closely staff from Cleveland County Information Technology and Electronic Maintenance as well as Smart Core to plan for upcoming data, telephone and security needs for the new facility.

Environmental Health: In response to the Dan River coal ash spill incident, a Coal Ash Management Act was put into place by the State of North Carolina. There are several coal ash ponds located in Cleveland County, and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources is sampling wells located within 1000 to 1500 feet from those coal ash ponds. To date, eleven wells have been sampled for possible contamination, however, these areas are serviced by municipal water systems, which allows for other options if needed. After the State has collected and tested at risk wells, should there be any naturally occurring chemical constituents detected in the water, the role of the local health department will be to work with the home owners in the implementation of water filter technology, re-sampling their wells, etc. until their water has reached a safe level. At this point in time, all responsibility for sampling and testing of wells is being performed at the State level in conjunction with Duke Energy Company.

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Electronic Medical Records: Alisa Leonard thanked the Board of Health for their support during the process of purchasing and implementing the Patagonia Electronic Medical Record system. The program has been implemented clinically and is working well. On May 13, 2015, Patagonia will send a videographer to film methods of development and implementation of the program in Cleveland County, and the video will be used in the training process of other County health departments. Staff is preparing for stage 2 year 1 meaningful use to prove compliance. Ms. Leonard is leading a statewide group meeting every four to six weeks in an effort to assist them in their efforts to improve their performance with Patagonia.

North Carolina Board of County Commissioners Update:

Commissioner Johnny Hutchins stated that at a recent meeting of the North Carolina Board of County Commissioners, the Secretary of Health and Human Services provided a presentation focusing on Mental Health care. During the presentation, the Secretary stated that he feels strongly that regionalizing the areas of health and human services is the appropriate action to take. Mr. Hutchins stated that it is very possible this will be occurring in the near future and should be watched closely.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chair Hayek called for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion: Robert Miller moved, with a second by Johnny Hutchins, that the Cleveland County Board of Health meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Dorothea Wyant, Secretary  
Cleveland County Board of Health