

Dewitt Piatt Bi-County Health Department Board of Health
Minutes for March 24, 2021
DeWitt Office

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Sochor, Aaron Blakely, Tricia Scerba, Mitch Hammel, Phillip Lamkin,
Melonie Tilley, Mark Fred

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ray Spencer

STAFF PRESENT: David Remmert, Shelley Stipp

The meeting was called to order by A. Blakely at 7:02 p.m.

The minutes for the December 3, 2020, meeting in DeWitt office were reviewed. A motion was made by J. Sochor to accept the minutes; second by M. Hammel; motion carried.

D. Remmert commented he has not written up any reports for a while, as we have been so busy with COVID. At this time, D. Remmert entertained COVID related questions. P. Lamkin asked if D. Remmert has noticed any resistance from people who do not want to get the shot. D. Remmert commented he is starting to see resistance, however, at one point, he was fearful we were going to run out of vaccine. We were actually experiencing a shortage. D. Remmert got into touch with IDPH, a couple of times, and didn't really get much of a response. He then got our legislators involved. After a week of trying to pull them into this discussion, they got back in touch, and dedicated more doses coming to us so we were able to finish up second dose statuses. Things seem to be going a lot smoother now. We were vaccinating 1,000- 1,200 shots each week between the two counties. We are getting through our population pretty quickly. New signup genius' were recently loaded for first and second dose appointments in April. Interestingly, the Piatt County one is still not full. The DeWitt County one filled up completely pretty quickly, so D. Remmert launched another new signup genius this past Monday exclusive to DeWitt County. It still has hundreds of appointment slots available. He is starting to get a sense demand is starting to wane to some degree.

The State website has data on the numbers of doses we have given. Piatt County is approaching 9,000 and DeWitt County is approaching roughly 6,000 given. If 20% of the population are kids who wouldn't qualify for the vaccine, you are talking about 9,000 vaccinated in Piatt and take off the 20%, you are at roughly 12,500 in Piatt county.

D. Remmert believes we are getting to the threshold of the population who does not want the vaccine.

P. Lamkin asked D. Remmert if there was any talk about expanding the age groups. D. Remmert reported Governor Pritzker made an announcement Thursday, March 18, 2021, regarding expansion. He expanded eligibility a bit. He expanded essential workers eligibility. He allowed for government employees, for example, to receive vaccine. D. Remmert commented even though Governor Pritzker expanded eligibility of essential workers, this past week, many of those people have already received the vaccine.

T. Scerba commented Walgreens is calling people. D. Remmert commented he thinks initially Walgreens was not getting very many doses in, however, it seems like Walgreens is currently getting a lot more doses in, as well as a wider variety of vaccinations, such as the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. We are not getting options. He feels like Walgreens has a longer appointment list now than what they had when they first started.

M. Fred commented he thinks things are going really well. He complimented D. Remmert and his team, commenting how smoothly the vaccination clinics are running. He appreciates very much D. Remmert communicating with the Board when challenges come up. D. Remmert said it is very nice to get to a point where we are receiving compliments. He is surrounded by capable hands who are doing great work.

D. Remmert commented he has relied pretty heavily on working with a model developed in the H1N1 campaign, when we started to do a lot of vaccinations way back then. This time, twice as many people are being vaccinated, and it's on a much bigger scale.

P. Lamkin commented the vaccination clinic at the High School in Clinton seems to be running very smoothly, as well. D. Remmert said we are able to vaccinate 16 people every 10 minutes in Clinton, at the High School, and 12 people every 10 minutes in Monticello at the Community Building. In DeWitt the clinics are on Tuesday and Thursdays and currently in Monticello the clinics are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A number of volunteers in Monticello have requested to shift the clinics to Monday and Wednesday. Some of the volunteers have volunteered at every single clinic, and they are running into COVID fatigue.

Environmental Health – D. Remmert has not asked his staff to provide reports because of COVID issues. Some services are on pause, but we are still issuing food permits, temporary permits, well permits, septic system permits, we are less involved with inspection services.

Dental – D. Remmert commented the new dentist seems to be operating smoothly, providing dental services two days a week in the DeWitt clinic.

Financial Reports – See attached

Accounts Payable – D. Remmert mentioned, as we talk about Financial Reports, we have multiple different grants that we are using dealing with COVID issues. We started out with a contact tracing grant, most recently, we received a grant specific to vaccination clinics. There have been 3 different grant programs related to the COVID pandemic: the COVID Crisis Grant, contact tracing grant and the newest, most recent grant specific to vaccination clinics. Overall our Operating Budget this year is much larger than over the most recent years. This year the Operating Budget could end up being close to 1.5 million dollars. M. Hammel made a motion to accept the Account Payable Report, seconded by M. Tilley; motion carried.

Profit & Loss Report – D. Remmert comment this report is very straight forward, income vs. expenditures. Income is approaching 1.5 million dollars. We are currently at \$1,458,112. Expenditures are at \$1,201,643 so far. Net income total \$256,459. P. Lamkin asked how much of income/expenditures is up because of COVID. D. Remmert reported we hired 11 more people for contact tracing, basically doubling our staff. At this time, we do not have all of them on hand, but some of them are still working. They all signed a contractual agreement, hourly employees reporting their own taxes. D. Remmert commented fringe benefits for health departments and government agencies are very costly. Anything we can do to reduce that expenditure helps quite a bit. J. Sochor made a motion to accept the Profit and Loss Report; second by M. Fred; motion carried.

Balance Sheet – These are very common accounting reports we go through each time. Assets are currently \$3,043,057, and liabilities to match. D. Remmert looks at current assets as an important indicator of financial health. We were in a severe situation one time when our current assets were under \$200,000, we were worried about making payroll. IDPH wasn't paying their grants on time, nothing was coming back to us. D. Remmert is happy to report our status of cash in the bank is very healthy right now. J. Sochor made a motion to accept the Balance Sheet, second by M. Hammel; motion carried.

Income/Expense Report – for review purposes only, no approval needed at this time.

New Business – Salary Schedule Update – D. Remmert reported a salary schedule update is a common thing, has nothing to do with giving someone a raise. Cost of Living from January 2020 – December 2020 rose 1.2%. Our entire salary schedule was

adjusted 1.2%. This will affect people we hire from this point moving forward. We do this so we can keep it relevant with the market place. M. Fred made a motion to accept the Salary Schedule Update, second by M. Hammel; motion carried.

COVID-19 issues/updates – Discussion – D. Remmert asked if anyone had any additional COVID related questions.

Other – None

The next meeting for DeWitt-Piatt Board of Health is scheduled for May 26, 2021. D. Remmert will need to reschedule this as he will be in Alaska during that time, visiting his oldest daughter. He will be sending out correspondence with possible June dates. Being that there was no other business to discuss; M. Tilley made a motion to adjourn, second by P. Lamkin. the meeting ended at 7:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Remmert
Administrator

I hereby certify that the minutes above hereto accurately represent the actions taken by the DeWitt/Piatt Board of Health on the above occasion.

Board of Health Member

Date