Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Board of Health
Sidney-Shelby County

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The regular meeting of the Sidney-Shelby County Board of Health was called to order by Dr. Matt Vasko at 7:00 p.m. on September 16, 2026. The meeting was held at the health department located at 202 West Poplar Street, Sidney, Ohio.

Other Board of Health members present included; Bill Ankney, Ted Holthaus, and Dr. Aaron Sargeant. Quorum was established. Also in attendance were Erica Lentz, Health Commissioner, Ted Wuebker, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Teri Heath, Director of Nursing, Tia Toner, Human Resource Manager, Alysha Orsborne, City Council, Jesse Pohlman, and Karla Pohlman.

ADOPTION OF REVISED AGENDA

Dr. Sargeant moved, seconded by Mr. Holthaus to approve the revised agenda. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Ankney moved, seconded by Mr. Holthaus to approve the August 19, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

Ted Wuebker presented the following Environmental Health items.

Jesse & Karla Pohlman, 2888 Russia Versailles Rd., Russia – STS Variance

Situation:

The Pohlmans own a 65-acre tract at the above address, just East of the Village of Russia. The property contains a house, farm buildings and equipment, much tillable farmland, and a drainage waterway. The house is over 100 years old, and there was no county well or septic records found, therefore concluding they are pre-1958. The Pohlmans would like to put an addition onto their current home. This would require their sewage treatment system (STS) to be up to code. Their home is approximately 1,000 feet from the Russia Village Limits. In anticipation of having to upgrade their old septic, they researched costs to tie into the public sewer of Russia. Their total cost estimate is over $66,000. They have the land available to install an on-lot STS. They would like Board of Health approval to forgo connection to public sewer and allow the pursuit of installing a private STS.

Additional Information:

The average cost of an STS over the past three years is $17,524. Three times this cost is $52,572. The estimate for the Pohlmans to tie into public sewer is $66,083.17. This is 3.8 times the cost of an STS. The SSCHD sewer connection policy allows the Board to take into account economic feasibility when the cost is more than three times the average. Also, the Village of Russia has expressed concerns that extending public sewer in this area is not in the Village's best interest at this time.

EH Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommends the Board waive the connection to public sewer and allow pursuit of a private on-lot, with the stipulation that if in the future sewer is within 200 feet of the house or the new STS fails, that sewer connection will be re-evaluated.

Dr. Sargeant moved, seconded by Mr. Ankney to approve the variance to waive the connection to public sewer and allow pursuit of a private on-lot, with the stipulation that if in the future sewer is within 200 feet of the house or the new STS fails, that sewer connection will be re-evaluated. Motion approved.

Ryan Smith, 16A West Main St., Ft. Loramie – Condemnation Order

Mr. Holthaus moved, seconded by Mr. Ankney to approve the Condemnation Order. Motion approved.

Environmental Health Updates

The health department will participate in a Scrap Tire Recycling event on October 9, 2026. A flyer was shared with additional details,

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mr. Ankney moved, seconded by Dr. Sargeant to approve bills. Motion approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Erica Lentz presented the August 2026 financial reports.

September 2, 2026 Letter to the Auditor

The Health Commissioner sent a letter to the Auditor on September 2, 2026 to increase appropriations in General Nursing by $20,000.

September 9, 2026 Letter to the Auditor

The Health Commissioner sent a letter to the Auditor on September 9, 2026 to increase appropriations in the following: General Health Travel by $450 and Other Expenses by $17,000, General Nursing Travel by $1,500, Food Fees-State by $350, Water Fees-Water Testing by $1,000, WIC Travel by $250 and Salaries by $4,000, and General Environmental Health Contract Services by $7,000 and Other Expenses by $24,000.

Mr. Holthaus moved, seconded by Mr. Ankney to approve the September 2, 2026 and September 9, 2026 Letter's to the Auditor. Motion approved.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING REPORT

Monthly Report

Teri Heath presented the September 2026 nursing report and infectious disease report. Flu clinics have been scheduled at various locations.

BOARD OF HEALTH BYLAWS

The Board reviewed the draft Board of Health Bylaws and provided corrections and revisions. The revised draft will be brought back to the Board for further review and approval at the next meeting.

Dr. Vasko moved, seconded by Mr. Holthaus to table the approval of the draft Board of Health Bylaws until corrections and revisions were made. Motion approved.

WORKFORCE GRANT BUDGET

The Health Department was awarded an additional $90,000 in funding through the Workforce Grant. The funding is designated for employee retention, bonuses, and salaries. A proposed budget was presented to the Board, including funding for salaries and employee bonuses for 2026 and 2027. Under the grant guidelines, the proposed bonus is calculated at 3% of an individual employee's salary, up to a maximum of $1,000.

Mr. Ankney moved, seconded by Dr. Sargeant to approve the 2026 and 2027 bonuses as outlined in the Budget Justification. Motion approved.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER REPORT

Erica Lentz shared the following with the Board:

- The Health Department applied for a Rural Health Grant in the amount of $123,593. If awarded, the grant will fund a full-time Rural Health Coordinator and supporting staff salaries. The grant focuses on health education and prevention and will support community events, outreach activities, and social media campaigns.
- A letter from the Ohio Department of Health from the recent Integrated Harm Reduction site visit.
- A news article from the Sidney Daily News featuring a Kiwanis outreach event the health department presented at.

Next Board of Health Meeting- October 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ankney moved, seconded by Mr. Holthaus to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion approved.

Shelby Pence, BSN, RN, President
Sidney-Shelby County Board of Health

10/21/26
Date

Erica Lentz, MSN, RN
Health Commissioner/Board Secretary

10-21-2026
Date