

**CARROLL COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING 6:00 P.M.**

Leann Cline, Carroll County General Health District Commissioner, welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Ms. Cline asked that everyone in attendance state their name for the record.

**Those present were:** Leann Cline, Health Commissioner; Corinne Ren, Health District; Commissioner Robert E. Wirkner; Commissioner Thomas R. White; Commissioner Jeffrey L. Ohler; Christopher R. Modranski, Assistant Clerk, Commissioners; Lynn Fairclough, Auditor; Stacy Taylor, Deputy Auditor; Staci Brady, Deputy Auditor; Jeff Yeager, Treasurer; Carol McIntire, Free Press Standard; Robin Warner, Warner & Warner; Deb Haugh, Warner & Warner; Dick Thompson, Augusta Township; Cara Borland; Augusta Township; Calvin Mangun, Augusta Township; Jeff Hawk, Augusta Township; Ryan Irwin, Brown Township; Jeanne Grim, Brown Township; Jeff Tipton, Center Township; Mark Walters, Center Township; Curtis Frase, East Township; Sharon Kampfer, East Township; Tim Dayton, Fox Township; Joe Seck, Harrison Township; Dick Walters, Lee Township; Al Furbee, Loudon Township; Randy Dingle, Monroe Township; Brian McIntire, Monroe Township; Wally Leggett, Monroe Township; Jim Romig, Orange Township; Robert McCort, Union Township; and Dr. W. Scott Stine, Board President, Board of Health.

Ms. Cline gave an overview of the current financial condition of the Health District. Ms. Cline advised over the last five years there has been a lot of employee turnover, and she is the third Health Commissioner in that timeframe. The Medical Director has changed as well as the Environmental and Nursing Directors. Ms. Cline advised funding has shifted heavily including a dramatic decrease in the Ohio Department of Health grant funding from \$100,000 five years ago to \$60,000 this year. Ms. Cline explained there has been a drastic decrease in the environmental program as well. She advised the Health District receives a lot of unfunded mandates from the State of Ohio. In 2011 the Health District had approximately \$940,000 and has steadily decreased. Ms. Cline advised the expenses have fluctuated during this time. Ms. Cline advised health insurance costs have contributed to the decreased availability of funds. She advised payroll was cut by \$68,000 with the same number of employees and she also cut expenses by \$140,000. Ms. Cline advised the Health District weighs heavily on the grants for revenue.

Ms. Cline advised looking forward into the rest of 2016 and 2017, she foresees expense issues from employees retiring as well as approximately \$35,000 in employee sick, personal and vacation pay. Ms. Cline expects more grant funding cuts as well as a mandate for the Health District to receive an accreditation from the State of Ohio. Ms. Cline advised the application will cost the Health Department approximately \$17,000 with an additional cost of approximately \$25,000 in preparation for the accreditation. Ms. Cline advised there is no evidence that proves this accreditation is going to improve the services offered at the Health District and Ohio is the only state requiring accreditation. Ms. Cline advised the accreditation will enhance funding opportunities and develop databases to enhance efficiency.

Ms. Cline advised in order to meet the current mandated requirements and keep services in the current state the Health District needs an additional \$134,000. Ms. Cline advised if funding cannot be covered then the Advisory Board will need to decide: (a) whether to cut services to only what is mandatory by the State of Ohio, (b) ask for additional funding from Township Trustees and/or County Commissioners, (c) place a Public Health Levy on the ballot, (d) establish a non-profit status 501(c)(3), and/or (d) seek out additional grants (some grants require 501(c)(3) status and accreditation). Ms. Cline advised the Ohio Department of Health can force merging with other Health Districts. Ms. Cline explained that the Health District could merge willingly if another Health District is agreeable. Ms. Cline advised the Ohio Department of Health will mandate other districts cover the services and charge the County.

Al Furbee advised he understands the pain from the unfunded mandates but states there isn't a township represented in this meeting that hasn't suffered budget cuts over the last three years. Leann asked if the trustees felt a public health levy would pass in Carroll County. Mr. Furbee responded he felt it would pass if the levy was promoted correctly. Calvin Mangun advised his township cannot afford to pay their employees' insurance and would rather take the money the Health District gets from Augusta Township and use that to pay for health insurance. Mr. Mangun advised the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) states the Health District cannot take more funds from the trustees than what it takes to operate. Mr. Mangun advised the Health District is already doing that because they have had to use carryover from last year. Lynn Fairclough advised that during a conversation at the beginning of the year with Ms. Cline, Ms. Fairclough suggested placing a public health tax levy on the ballot. Ms. Fairclough advised this would be the time to do that because she would have support from the township trustees and it will help eliminate some of their budget shortfalls. Ms. Fairclough figured that if the Health Department asks for a 0.4 mil levy would create an estimated \$329,000 worth of revenue and would cost a taxpayer with a home valued at \$100,000.00 \$14.00 per year.

Commissioner Wirkner gave an overview of the current financial condition of Carroll County. He advised the County had a 2016 carryover of just over \$3 million, anticipated revenue is just over \$6 million and the budget is just over \$8 million which takes that \$3 million carryover to under \$1 million. Commissioner Wirkner advised the sales tax from the gas and oil industry is already down \$378,000 in the first 3 months compared to 2015. Commissioner Wirkner advised in 2014 Commissioners gave the Health District \$88,000 and in 2015 \$38,000 was given as a bailout. Commissioner Wirkner advised the Local Government Funds are also sliding and is now \$400,000 which is the lowest it has ever been. Commissioner Wirkner advised something else happened this year that no one could have done anything about – the County has to pay \$234,800 as a result of a vendor overpaying on its taxes and the State of Ohio has required the monies be returned. Commissioner Wirkner advised clearly the township trustees cannot share anymore of the burden and, if possible, need to get the existing burden off of their backs.

Commissioner Wirkner advised he feels a public health levy would generate adequate income to run the Health District and return the Local Governments Funds back to townships. Commissioner Wirkner advised he will recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they pay for the levy to be placed on the ballot and that the Commissioners help the Health District with the accounting burden. Commissioner Wirkner asked that the trustees help promote the levy. Commissioner Ohler advised he and Commissioner White are in support of the levy and using County General funds to pay for the levy to be put on the ballot.

Commissioner Ohler advised that comparing 2015 to 2014, sales taxes dropped about \$355,000 and the County is already down \$288,000 for the first 3 months of 2016 compared to 2015. Commissioner Ohler advised the General Fund will need reduced approximately \$800,000 in 2017. Commissioner Ohler advised that Commissioner Wirkner has already sent a memo to the County office holders letting them know the County's financial situation and letting them begin to prepare for 2017.

Dr. Stine asked how the property tax money is disbursed and what part funds the Health District. Ms. Fairclough advised she would have to review that information and report back to Dr. Stine because millage is different in each township, and she would need to have the settlement in front of her. Dr. Stine advised he understands that 10 mill is divided up to the subdivision committees and part of that is to fund the Health District, and he would like to know what that 10 mill generates, how it increased in the last 10 years and how it is distributed. Dr. Stine advised the next step for the Board of Health is to certify to the Board of County Commissioners that they have insufficient funds to run the Health District. Commissioner Wirkner advised that is correct and that would automatically trigger the Board of Commissioners to place a levy before the voters.

Brian McIntire advised what he has noticed is that everyone is taking a cut across the board except for the Health District. Mr. McIntire advised the Health District wants to increase payroll, and employees knowing that there is going to be an increase in healthcare costs. Mr. McIntire advised each year the trustees hear the same thing – the Health District needs more employees and more money. Mr. McIntire advised the townships don't have any more money so when is the Health District going to make cuts.

Ryan Irwin asked what the plan is if the levy fails. Commissioner Wirkner advised the Budget Commission has the ability to give relief immediately to the townships in the form of the Local Government Funds. Commissioner Wirkner advised he feels if the levy fails on election night that is the people of Carroll County stating they don't want to fund a Health District and consolidation options would need to be explored. Commissioner Wirkner advised he believes a public health levy is the best way forward.

Joe Seck asked how he is supposed to ask a farmer to approve another tax levy when his property taxes have doubled over the last few years and the township revenues have not shown that increase. Jeff Yeager advised that property taxes have not doubled. He explained what has happened is the State of Ohio has changed the formula for the CAUV and this last change has hit the farmers really hard. Ms. Fairclough advised the Farm Bureau is working hard to mitigate the burden from the CAUV.

Commissioner White advised that he appreciates the cohesion of the group.

Ryan Irwin asked what services can be cut if needed. Ms. Cline advised she is beginning to brainstorm and make that plan but she doesn't have anything set in stone as of yet.

An unknown trustee asked how much money is left on the mortgage for the Health District building. Commissioner Ohler advised the County owes \$23,000 per year until the year 2039.

Lynn Fairclough asked the Advisory Committee what the next steps are. Dr. Stine advised the Board of Health has presented to the Health Advisory Committee the needed budget and the funds are not available. The Committee needs to advise the Board of Commissioners the insufficiency of funding and let them move forward with a public health levy. Ms. Fairclough asked if the Health Board is open to contracting the bookkeeping out and feels that would help alleviate some of the burden tasked on the Health District staff.

Al Furbee advised the Loudon Township Trustees would be in support of the tax levy.

Commissioner Wirkner advised he would like the certificate of insufficiency from the Health District soon so that the Board of Commissioners can take the proper steps to get the public health levy on the ballot.

Carroll County Commissioners

/s/Christopher R. Modranski  
Christopher R. Modranski, Assistant Clerk I  
(PREPARED BY)

/s/ Robert E Wirkner PRESIDENT  
Robert E Wirkner  
/s/ Thomas R White  
Thomas R White  
/s/ Jeffrey L Ohler  
Jeffrey L Ohler  
/s/ Robert E Wirkner PRESIDENT  
Robert E Wirkner

We hereby certify the foregoing to be true and correct.  
/s/ Janice E. Leggett  
Janice E. Leggett, Clerk Supervisor