

County to provide assistance to LCHD next year



Written by Mandy Hochstedler

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The Logan County Health District will receive some assistance from the county next year following the agency's failed operating levy attempts this year and in 2007.

Logan County Commissioners David Knight, John Bayliss and Jack Reser and Health Commissioner Dr. Boyd Hoddinott met Tuesday morning to discuss a pending agreement for county-provided assistance, which includes the coverage of various LCHD expenses totaling about \$23,000, several services performed by county employees and the deferment of a mortgage payment. The two parties plan to make the agreement official at the first of the new year.

Dr. Hoddinott said it is the county's responsibility to provide "housing" for the health district, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

"Various attorney generals have interpreted this law to mean that the (county) commissioners are responsible for cleaning, electric, gas, maintenance and phone services — basically everything needed to run the building," he said.

The LCHD has not utilized these particular county funds or services for the past 30 years while it received levy funding, according to Dr. Hoddinott. However, its current levy expires Dec. 31 and the \$1 million in new levy funds that the agency hoped for will not be realized. Instead, the health district will only receive \$500,000 in inside millage, which is taken from the townships and municipalities.

With less available operating funds next year, the health district decided to utilize whatever the county could provide for it, the health commissioner said.

The agreement effective for calendar year 2009 states that county employees will provide limited janitorial services, lawn services and snow removal at the 310 S. Main St. facility. Dr. Hoddinott said although the janitorial services will be offered, the health district likely will not utilize these services just yet.

County funds will also cover the cost of the health district's contracts for refuse service, rug service, security system, pager service, utilities and likely network maintenance, although negotiations are still pending on the last item. The agency paid approximately \$23,000 for these services in 2008, Dr. Hoddinott said.

"We're offering the same services to you that we're offering to all county offices," Mr. Knight said to the health commissioner.

The agreement also includes the deferment of the health district's 2009 principal payment and interest payment on its mortgage with the county, which amounts to \$308,750 and \$16,209.38, respectively. The payments will be deferred to a future year that is yet to be determined.

"I'm really pleased with the way the commissioners worked with us on this," Dr. Hoddinott said. "We know that they've had their own budget restraints to deal with.

"If we had received only 480 more votes (for the levy) we wouldn't have to do this."

LCHD announces immunization clinic reductions

The Logan County Health District announces various reductions in the number of immunization clinics offered each month as a result of the failure of its operating levy last month.

Flu shots are administered from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Mondays through March.

Beginning in January, adult clinics will be offered from 2 to 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. Also, Shots for Tots will be offered from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursdays and from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.

Satellite clinics will no longer be conducted at the Discovery Center, Indian Lake Community Church, Chippewa Neighborhood Outreach Center, Belle Center United Methodist Church or Goshen Friends Church.

Take current shot records. Logan County Medicaid cards are accepted.

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