

# County health board approves third levy attempt

By MANDY HOCHSTEDLER  
Examiner Staff Writer

Logan County residents will likely see a health district issue on the ballot once again this fall, as the Board of Health voted 4-1 at its Wednesday afternoon meeting to proceed with a levy for the purpose of generating operating funds.

Member John Henschen cast the lone dissenting vote after expressing concern that the state of the economy does not bode well for another health district levy.

The 1-mill 10-year replacement issue will first have to meet the approval of the county commissioners before it is officially placed on the November ballot.

If voters say “yes” to the issue, it will generate approximately \$900,000 per year for the health district, primarily for the nursing and environmental health divisions, and would cost the owner of a \$100,000 property approximately \$37.83 per year. Within the past year, two replacement levy requests by the health district failed to meet voter approval in March and November. The upcoming issue will be the last possible levy attempt, as current funds expire at the end of the year.

“We owe it to our employees to try again for another levy,” President Don Spath said, referring to personnel cuts that will have to be made in the event that the levy does not pass. “We can’t just drop it— we’ve got to do this.”

Health district officials have expressed hopes that this upcoming levy campaign will be different than the former two because it is backed by a newly formed committee made up of a group of local officials and concerned citizens, instead of just health district employees.

Chairman of the levy committee Adam Brannon, also the Bellefontaine Mayor, was present at the meeting to give the committee’s recommendation that the upcoming issue be a replacement levy.

“All in attendance at our meeting Thursday seemed very positive and supportive of another levy attempt,” he said.

“I have committed myself to this issue. I will be at the fair talking with people about it.”

Officials from around the county are concerned about the passage of the levy because if the issue does not gain voter approval, the health district will receive funds from the county that are usually allocated to the townships and municipalities. This means that these entities would have significantly less funds for street and road repair, public safety and recreation programs.

In other matters, members approved the start of a manufactured home placement inspection program, which will help local mobile home parks save money and time by having an inspector in the county.

In conjunction with the new program, the board approved a fee of \$500 for a basic inspection, which includes a plan review, footing inspection, final inspection and the State of Ohio Inspection Seal. An electrical service inspection is not included, and must be performed separately by a state certified electrical inspector. A re-inspection fee was set at \$100.

In other action, the board:

- revoked the park-camp license of Hideaway Haven, 770 S. State Route 292, because of the non-payment of a license fee;
- accepted a bid of \$3,200 for parking lot sealing from H&S Asphalt;
- ordered Patrick White of 313 E. Brown Ave., to remove all solid waste, store any water-holding container under roof and secure garage within seven days;
- ordered Susan Dieker of Beavercreek to cease open burning and to remove all solid waste from her property at 9720 Lake Breeze Drive, Belle Center, within 14 days;
- ordered Michelle Massey of 3941 Logan Road, Ohio Valley Trailer Court, to remove all solid waste on her property and repair the garage door within seven days;
- ordered Diana Losey of 1961 County Road 130 to remove all solid waste within seven days;
- ordered Tamara Potts, licensee of Thirsty Turtle, 7838 State Route 366, Russells Point, to correct a third violation of the Ohio Administrative Code requiring a service sink for the cleaning of floor cleaning equipment and floor cleaning waste disposal within 30 days;
- approved annual evaluations for Kim Casady, environmental health employee; Jennifer Wren, home health supervisor; Kathleen Davis, public health nurse; Tracy Davis, WIC nurse; Libby Kraus, home health aide; and Diana Aghdam, health educator; and
- approved a tuition reimbursement payment of \$2,180 to Matt Stonerock, environmental health employee.

The next meeting is 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at the health district, 310 S. Main St.