

**GREENE COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
October 2, 2025**

The Greene County Board of Health met in regular session on Thursday, October 2, 2025, in Conference Room 124 of the health district office. The meeting convened at approximately 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Jane Clifton, President; Sylvia Ellison, Vice President; Todd Dudley (virtual), PScott Hammond, Ashley Hartmann, Connie Helmuth (virtual), Marty Larson, Angelia Mickle (virtual), Ratna Palakodeti M.D., Timothy Roop, Nancy Terwoord, and David Thompson. Excused: William Harden. Employees in attendance: Melissa Howell, Health Commissioner; Noah Stuby, Deputy Health Commissioner; Kevin Sharrett, M.D., Medical Director; Shadrick Adams; Jennifer Barga (virtual), Olivia Detty; and Sheryl Wynn. Guests in attendance: Jeanna Alcorn, Clint Conner, Jessica Dean, Amber Kruger, and Katie Spencer.

With quorum, Ms. Clifton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., announced the virtual attendees, and asked each guest to introduce themselves.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Ms. Clifton introduced the amended agenda and the meeting minutes for September 4, 2025.

#25-10-02-02 Mr. Roop moved to approve the amended agenda and the September 4, 2025, meeting minutes. Ms. Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was carried by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Clifton stated this was the second reading of the proposed 2026 Environmental Health (EH) fees. She called Clint Conner, a sewage treatment system installer, to speak. Mr. Conner expressed that he is not opposed to paying the increased fees; rather, his concern is about the timeframe it currently takes for the EH department to complete its sewage design reviews.

Health Commissioner Howell thanked Mr. Conner for his comments, noting that board members do consider all comments. The proposed fees will be voted on at the next board meeting on November 6, 2025, within 30 days of the second reading and hearing.

PRESENTATION

Tonight's presentation, "Arsenic in Well Water," was given by Shadrick Adams. Mr. Adams discussed the basics of arsenic, the maximum contaminant level set by the US EPA (15 ug/L, or ppb, with a goal of zero), and the effects of chronic exposure to arsenic.

He also shared background information on how the health department started testing for arsenic and encouraged neighbors whose houses tested high for arsenic to allow testing, waiving normal sampling fees, and only charging the lab fee.

Finally, he reviewed treatment options and addressed questions from the board.

The presentation lasted 27 minutes.

Dr. Palakodeti proposed to Mr. Adams the possibility of conducting a study comparing review times from different counties and comparing them to GCPH review times.

Mr. Adams agreed, but he also noted that review times can be delayed due to inadequate designs or missing information from the designer. Sometimes, the designer may take longer to submit the requested information needed to complete the review.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Deputy Health Commissioner Stuby reviewed the September income and expenditure report, the September voucher summary, the appropriation transfers and fund transfers/temporary advances, and introduced the creation of a general fund for Planning, Promotion, and Preparedness.

Deputy Health Commissioner Stuby answered all questions.

#25-10-02-01 Dr. Palakodeti moved approval of the income and expenditure report, voucher summary, appropriation transfers, and fund transfers/temporary advances. Ms. Terwoord seconded the motion. The motion was carried by acclamation.

GOVERNANCE REPORTS

Governance Committee – No report.

Performance and Evaluation Committee – In Mr. Harden's absence, Ms. Clifton reported that the committee did not meet and there was no report.

Planning and Finance Committee – No report.

Nominating Committee – Ms. Clifton reported that the committee met on Monday, September 29, 2025, at 5:00 PM to discuss potential candidates for 2026. Timothy Roop was appointed Vice President and has agreed to accept as the current Vice President, Sylvia Ellison, transitioning to President. There will be a vote at the next board meeting.

Ms. Clifton thanked David Thompson and Angelia Mickle for their willingness to serve on the committee and for their input.

NEW BUSINESS

The City of Xenia requests the release of delinquent and current taxes owed to GCPH for E. Third Street (Parcel ID M40000200120026200), Case No. 2024 CV 0572.

#25-10-02-03 Ms. Elisson moved approval to release the delinquent and current taxes owed to GCPH. Mr. Roop seconded the motion. The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Adams introduced a new position, the Environmental Health Technician, within the Environmental Health (EH) Department, for board approval. The technician would perform a significant amount of administrative work, freeing up sanitarians to focus on tasks only they are qualified to perform, as required by law. This position would also allow someone who has not yet passed the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) exam to continue working until they pass. It is likely that EH will appoint someone to this position.

#25-10-02-04 Ms. Mickle moved approval to release the delinquent and current taxes owed to GCPH. Dr. Palakodeti seconded the motion. The motion was carried by acclamation.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Ms. Clifton congratulated Health Commissioner Howell and the entire health department on their re-accreditation status. Health Commissioner Howell received a congratulatory letter from Ohio Department of Health director, Bruce Vanderhoff.

Dr. Sharrett discussed the respiratory vaccine season, which is underway, with increased interest in flu, COVID, and RSV vaccines. In Greene County, a family was tested for pertussis after one child tested positive.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act has cut Medicaid spending but also allocates \$50 billion over five years for rural health. States can apply for funding, with initial disbursement based solely on application submissions.

So far, 27 states have submitted letters of intent, and the application deadline is November 5. Awards will be announced before December 31, with disbursements starting in early 2026. Ohio could potentially receive up to \$400 million annually for rural health. Greene County is working on plans to improve healthcare access and quality.

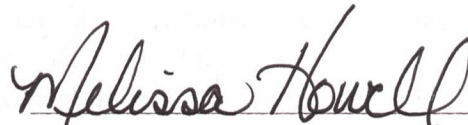
Health Commissioner Howell reiterated that we are in virus season, and emergency rooms are seeing more cough cases. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends COVID-19, RSV, and flu shots for children, and we need to follow these recommendations. She has contacted the Ohio Department of Health about this twice. As public health professionals, there is focus on what we see in disease trends. This season brings flu, colds, and RSV, so it's important to follow vaccination guidelines. Any changes should be based on data to reduce the risk of serious illness or hospitalization. The health department's decisions are based on what our epidemiologists observe.

Ms. Terwoord discussed the annual NALBOH conference. Although she is unable to attend this year, she hopes Ms. Clifton, Mr. Dudley, and Ms. Helmuth have a wonderful time at the conference.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:42 p.m.



Jane Clifton, President



Melissa Howell, Secretary