

**OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES - February 10, 2016**

Members Present: Dr. Gilbert
Elaine Gunter
Charles Ivie
Melvin Davis

Staff Present: Emily Eisenman
Neva Townsend
Apyl Singer
Keli Hinson
Caroline Resop-Bowman

Sarah Peck

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Health was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Health Department.

Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order. Minutes from November 10th meeting were reviewed. Elaine Gunter made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Dr. Gilbert, all were in favor, motion carried.

Election of Officers : Election of officers was postponed until the May meeting.

Old Business :

Emergency Preparedness - Sarah Peck, District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, shared information concerning the Department of Public Health's role and responsibility in providing coordination and support during a public health emergency and the critical need for volunteers and county support.

New Business :

Nurse Manager: Our current Nurse Manager, Caroline Resop-Bowman, has accepted a district position. Amy Medina, has agreed to step into the nurse manager position, leaving an open nursing position at this time.

County Funding Request & FY17 Budget - Emily Eisenman reviewed reports regarding revenue sources by fiscal year, current fiscal year fees in comparison to the previous two years, and a review of county funding since FY10.

County Funding dropped from \$152,675 in FY10 to \$52,675 in FY11 when the county requested that we spend the fund balance money that had accumulated over past fiscal years. Fund Balance at the end of FY10 was \$183,000 and is projected to be \$20,000 at the end of FY16. County funding has increased gradually over the past 5 years. FY16 funding was \$95,000.

Emily reviewed the proposed income and expenses for FY17. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of fee increases for Environmental Health, the cost of employee benefits, and salaries.

The starting salary for registered nurses in our district is currently \$40,000 & nurse managers start at \$45,000. Athen's Regional's starting salary for RNs is \$47,000 making it very difficult to recruit nurses at \$40,000. The district plans to raise the starting salary to \$45,000 for RNs and \$50,000 for nurse managers in the counties where the budget allows. It has been implemented in Clarke County and will be as well in Walton & Barrow Counties. Oconee County is in the same job market as Clarke County. If the county approves the proposed budget plan, Oconee County could also implement the increase. Without the proposed funding, it will not be possible to raise the starting salary and it may be necessary to consider hiring an LPN instead of an RN.

A possible increase in Environmental Health fees is being discussed and may be presented at a later meeting. Starting salaries for Environmentalists is also below the average making it difficult to recruit and keep Environmentalists. Commissioner Davis suggested comparing salaries throughout the state.

Reimbursement for Travel expenses verses purchasing or leasing vehicles was discussed. Emily will research information as to what point purchasing is more cost effective.

Charging patients and customers a fee to pay by credit card was a point of discussion. Comm. Davis suggested that we consider the possibility.

No further discussion, Mayor Ivie called for a vote on the FY17 budget. Chairman Davis excused himself from the vote. A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Dr. Gilbert, second by Elaine Gunter, all were in favor, motion carried.

No further business, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Flynn Warren, Secretary