

*Minutes approved on 4.9.26*



## **Health Services Committee Meeting**

Tazewell County Health Department Board Room  
Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Vice-Chairman Greg Sinn, Tammy Rich-Stimson, Jon Hopkins, Greg Longfellow, Cathryn Stump, Mark Goddard

Committee Members Absent: Chairman Jay Hall, Eric Schmidgall

Others Attending: Administrator Mindy Darcy  
Amy Fox, Health Dept.  
Stacie Ealey, Health Dept.  
Melissa Goetze, Environmental Health  
Stacy Thompson, Environmental Health

**MOTION**                    **MOTION BY MEMBER RICH-STIMSON, SECOND BY MEMBER STUMP** to approve the February 12, 2026 meeting minutes

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ANIMAL CONTROL** Animal Control Director, Libby Aeschleman, provided an overview of the October through February revenue, euthanasia, kennel services, bites, registration, officer call-outs, and expense reports.

Director Aeschleman stated that once the new facility is completed and staff begin operating out of the building, she recommended preparing two-year summary comparisons. These comparisons would help demonstrate how building maintenance, expenses, and intake numbers change over time after the transition to the new facility.

**BUILDING UPDATE** Director Aeschleman stated that they have a lot of the cinder block laid, interior walls set, steel is up, and furniture and kennels have been ordered. She stated that PJ Hoerr has agreed to do the installation work so that they will save money.

Administrator Mindy Darcy provided an overview of the Animal Control Facility Project reduction and additions to the project cost and contingency balance.

Administrator Darcy stated that we will plan an opening at the

new facility sometime in late May or June.

Vice Chairman Sinn questioned what would happen with the old building, and Administrator Darcy stated that nothing has been decided yet. However, a few ideas have been discussed, including having another department move into the building or using it for storage.

Administrator Darcy stated that there were several major components not included in the original bid, and funds had not been set aside for them, including technology, security costs, and data connectivity.

HS-26-13 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the City of Washington for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-14 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the City of Delavan for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-15 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the Village of Tremont for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-16 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the Village of Armington for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-17 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the Village of Hopedale for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-18 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the City of East Peoria for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-19 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the City of Marquette Heights for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-20 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the Village of Morton for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

HS-26-21 **MOTION BY MEMBER LONGFELLOW, SECOND BY MEMBER GODDARD** to recommend to approve agreement with the Village of Green Valley for Animal Control Services

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **HEALTH**

Health Department Administrator Amy Fox stated that it is the department's 55th anniversary and passed around documents from November 3, 1970, when the levy was voted on.

Administrator Fox stated that the Board of Health reception is on April 8, 2026 at Countryside Banquet in Sunnyland. She asked that the members know if they are interested in attending.

Administrator Fox stated that a member of Board of Health, Gloria Ranney, unexpectedly passed away this month.

**ENVIRONMENTAL** Environmental Health Supervisor Stacy Thompson stated that this week is Groundwater Awareness Week. She stated that with changes in the state lab, they are no longer able to give out free water sample kits. She stated that they are promoting the RCAC free well assessments. She stated that they are also giving out kits to determine if your toilet has a leaky flapper to help conserve groundwater.

Supervisor Thompson stated that they will be starting interviews for their summer intern position.

## **Discussion: Sewage Ordinance Changes Regarding Annual Effluent Testing**

Environmental Health Director Melissa Goetze provided the committee with a handout regarding proposed changes to the Ordinance regarding annual effluent testing. She stated that homeowners who have a septic system that discharges to the ground surface, must currently test their effluent to make sure that what they are discharging will not contaminate ground water. She stated that effective January 1, 2020, based on the effluent results and no flow history, the sampling could be reduced from once a year to every three years. She stated that when looking at the numbers this year, they show no major concern for fail rate, even after he reduced sampling to every three years. She stated that based on the data, they are looking to relieve the burden on homeowners of the requirements of sampling. She stated that businesses would still be required to submit effluent samples due to the bacterial load in the discharge. She stated that there would be an open meeting regarding this ordinance change. She stated that she does not know of any other counties that do this testing.

Administrator Fox stated that there is a process to get an ordinance change. She stated there would be a meeting open to the public and take their feedback, it goes to the state for approval, and Mike Holly for approval. She stated the vote would start in this committee, go to executive, then to full board for approval.

Director Goetze stated that they just raised their prices for this testing to the homeowners. She stated that the cost went from \$48 to \$68.

Member Goddard stated that he trusts his neighbors to do the right thing and he supported getting rid of this burdensome regulation.

Director Goetze provided an overview explaining the background and reasons the testing was originally required.

Member Rich-Stimson stated that she would appreciate the process getting started and receiving some additional feedback.

Member Longfellow questioned how much revenue this brings in and Director Goetze stated that we are just breaking even.

Member Hopkins questioned whether any other counties suggest or require this testing to be completed upon the sale of a property.

Director Goetze stated that she is not aware of any counties that suggest or require this testing.

**SOLID WASTE**

Director Goetze stated that they are working on the IEPA Delegation Agreement. She reported that the budget is nearly complete and the wording has been finalized. The documents will be submitted to the EPA for review and for any comments or changes. After that process is complete, the agreement will come before the committee.

Director Goetze reminded the committee of the household hazardous waste event on March 21<sup>st</sup> at ICC.

Vice Chairman Sinn recessed the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Gullette)