

Minutes approved 7.9.26



Health Services Committee Meeting

Tazewell County Health Department Board Room

Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 5:35 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Tammy Rich-Stimson, Greg Longfellow, Jon Hopkins, Eric Schmidgall, Cathryn Stump

Committee Members Absent: Chairman Jay Hall, Vice-Chairman Greg Sinn, Mark Goddard

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

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER STUMP, SECOND BY MEMBER HOPKINS** to approve the April 9, 2026 meeting minutes

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

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

Director Aeschleman stated that the shelter has an 80% reclaim rate, meaning that 80% of the stray animals they take in are eventually claimed by their owners.

Director Aeschleman stated that they have filled the supplemental officer position.

NEW FACILITY UPDATE

Director Aeschleman stated that the interior kennels were delivered that day and PJ Hoerr is confident that they will be able to get them installed within the next two weeks. She stated that the tentative date for a ribbon cutting ceremony is June 18, 2026.

HS-26-23 **MOTION BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL, SECOND BY MEMBER STUMP** to recommend to approve hours of operation for Animal Control

Director Aeschleman stated that they have struggled to find time for staff meetings, and this change would provide her with an opportunity to hold those meetings at 8:00 a.m. She stated that the doors would open to the public at 9:00 a.m. and that they would continue to close at 4:00 p.m.

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

HEALTH

Health Department Administrator Amy Fox stated that they will have several staff openings. She stated that their epidemiologist position will be opening because the current employee is leaving to attend medical school. She also stated that they are losing their bilingual educator, who is also going to medical school. In addition, she stated that they lost an environmental health employee after the individual was hired by the state, and that they also have a nurse who is retiring.

Administrator Fox stated that the gardeners have expanded their garden again. She stated that the garden is solely put together by the University of Illinois Extension master gardeners. She stated that all produce goes to WIC families.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health Supervisor Stacy Thompson stated that they will be starting the West Nile Virus surveillance the following week. She stated that a new intern will be starting on Monday. She stated that they will not be collecting birds again due to the concerns with the avian flu. She stated that they help a compost event this past Saturday and they gave away the equivalent of 1500 five gallon buckets of compost.

Supervisor Thompson stated that they will have an environmental health specialist position open. She stated that they have several candidates and will hopefully start interviews the following week. She stated that their new software is coming soon and they will have a two week period starting June 5, 2026 where any information that is put into the old software will not transfer over to the new software. She stated that they will do training during that time.

HS-26-22 MOTION BY MEMBER HOPKINS, SECOND BY MEMBER SCHMIDGALL to recommend to approve the Delegation Agreement between IEPA and Tazewell County

Environmental Health Director Melissa Goetze stated that every five years they have to renew their Delegation Agreement with EPA to do their inspections including landfill, transfer stations, closed landfill, any open dumps, and any open burnings. She stated that they are certified EPA non-hazardous waste inspectors. She stated that the Application has been submitted to EPA and has been approved by State's Attorney Mike Holly. Director Goetze provided an overview of the Delegation Agreement.

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

SOLID WASTE Environmental Health Director Melissa Goetze stated that they held a sharps take back event on May 1, 2026 and they filled three 50 gallon containers.

Member Rich-Stimson recessed the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Gullette)