



EAST CHICAGO HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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ANTHONY COPELAND, MAYOR

Dr. Paula Benchik Abrinko, Health Officer

Diana Garcia-Burns, Health Director

MINUTES

HEALTH FINANCE AND BOARD MEETING

June 7, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Health Department Lobby Conference Room

100 W. Chicago Avenue

East Chicago, IN 46312

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88327632089?pwd=aCt3eVZZUm1pS3BKNHc4ZWlvZDAwdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 2763 2089

Passcode: 367457

One Tap Mobile

312-626-6799

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Matthew Libiran called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

II. ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken and in attendance were Dr. Matthew Libiran (in-person), Loretta Parker (in-person), Dr. Sabrina Reed (in-person), Dr. Rev. James Wade (virtual) and Brenda Walker (in-person). Also in attendance were Dr. Paula Benchik-Abrinko (in-person), Diana Garcia-Burns (in-person) and Attorney Nick Snow (in-person). Natalie Adams (in-person) arrived after roll call was taken.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- Review and approve minutes from following meeting:
 - i. Health Finance and Board Meeting Minutes from May 3, 2023
 - Dr. Matthew Libiran requested a motion for approval of Finance and Board Meeting minutes dated May 3, 2023.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade made a motion to approve the Finance and Board Meeting Minutes from May 3, 2023. Brenda Walker second the motion.
 - Dr. Sabrina Reed stated she had questions about the minutes. She made a request to make change to read Indiana license in the Review and Approval of Minutes section. Dr. Reed questioned the word “provisional” in the Director update asking if it should read death certificate. Diana Garcia-Burns clarified that provisional was correct. Dr. Reed questioned “water surveillance” in the Director update. Diana Garcia-Burns explained that is correct and that it pertains to waste water testing. The word waste will be added to the minutes.
 - With no further questions or concerns, roll call vote was taken:
Dr. Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed – Yes Wade – Yes Walker – Yes - motion carries

- Review and approve the following payroll warrants:
 - i. Payroll Warrant 051223 dated May 12, 2023 in the amount of \$19,955.07
 - ii. Payroll Warrant 052623 dated May 26, 2023 in the amount of \$20,031.70
 - Dr. Matthew Libiran requested a motion for approval of Payroll Warrant 051223 dated May 12, 2023 in the amount of \$19,955.07 and Payroll Warrant 052623 dated May 26, 2023 in the amount of \$20,031.70.
 - Loretta Parker made a motion to approve Payroll Warrants 051223 and 052623. Dr. Rev. James Wade second the motion. With no questions or concerns, roll call vote was taken:
Dr. Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed – Yes Wade – Yes Walker – Yes - motion carries
- Review and approve the following claim warrant:
 - i. Claim Warrant 090723HB dated June 1, 2023 in the amount of \$11,223.21
 - Dr. Matthew Libiran requested a motion for approval of Claim Warrant 090723HB dated June 1, 2023 in the amount of \$11,223.21.
 - Loretta Parker made a motion to approve Claim Warrant. Dr. Sabrina Reed second the motion. With no questions or concerns, roll call vote was taken:
Dr. Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed – Yes Wade – Yes Walker – Yes - motion carries
- Past Due Invoice from Hinckley Springs dated January 12, 2023:
 - Dr. Matthew Libiran requested a motion for approval of past due invoice from Hinckley Springs dated January 12, 2023.
 - Loretta Parker made a motion to approve the past due invoice. Dr. Sabrina Reed second the motion.
 - Dr. Rev. James Wade requested confirmation of the dollar amount of the invoice which was \$46.96. With no further questions or concerns, roll call vote was taken:
Dr. Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed – Yes Wade – Yes Walker – Yes - motion carries
- Grant Agreement 73576 Immunization and Vaccines for Children – COVID-19 in the amount of \$33,447.17:
 - Dr. Libiran requested a motion for approval of grant agreement 73576 Immunization and Vaccines for Children in the amount of \$33,447.17.
 - Loretta Parker made a motion to approve grant agreement 73576 Immunization and Vaccines for Children. Dr. Sabrina Reed second the motion. With no questions or concerns, roll call vote was taken:
Dr. Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed – Yes Wade – Yes Walker – Yes - motion carries
- Grant Agreement 73635 Beach Monitoring and Notification Program in the amount of \$19,899.00:
 - Dr. Libiran requested a motion for approval of grant agreement 73635 Beach Monitoring and Notification Program in the amount of \$19,899.00.
 - Loretta Parker made a motion to approve grant agreement 73635 Beach Monitoring and Notification Program. Dr. Sabrina Reed second the motion. With no questions or concerns, roll call vote was taken:
Dr. Libiran – Yes Parker – Yes Reed – Yes Wade – Yes Walker – Yes - motion carries

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

V. DISCUSSION: None

VI. DIRECTOR UPDATE:

- The Inspections Division plan review discussed last meeting has been implemented.
- The Health Department has 22 lead cases. Diana stated she spoke to Sandra about this because Greentree from Indianapolis has assessed the homes and we have turned those cases over to the building department. Sandra has followed up with the Building Department and Diana has spoken with the Director of the Building Department, James Portalatan, and his team if following with that also.
- Diana Garcia-Burns stated the Health Department is busy with TB testing.
- There were no deaths in May from Covid.
- Animal Control is very busy - approximately 23 dogs and only have 14 kennels. She stated the Mayor did speak with her today in regards to housing those animals. She stated she spoke with Dr. Benchik about what the Mayor had communicated. Diana stated she researched to find an ordinance about being a no kill shelter, but was not able to find one. It was passed by the Health Board, but she does not think it ever went to Council. At this juncture, because it never went to Council, we are a kill shelter. The Mayor does not want to house all of these animals. Diana stated she sent out some emails to see if some of the other rescue shelters can take some of these animals in order to not be euthanized. Diana stated she reached out to Lake County and Hammond in regards to euthanizing. She did not hear back from Lake County, but she did speak to Hammond supervisor. In order for the animal to be put down the vet does not have to be there, but the vet has to deem that animal to be put down – so we have to have a relationship with the vet. The vet will have to a DEA license to order the medicine and of course staff will have to be trained. Diana stated this will still be a process because we have to find a vet who would be willing to do that and we already have a problem trying to find a vet. Dr. Benchik stated it will be very difficult to find a vet who will go along with euthanizing healthy animals. Diana stated the ordinance reads after three (3) days of being impounded that they be put down. Diana stated she ordered violation tickets in duplicate to be used for these people who do not have their dog on leash or have insurance. Dr. Benchik stated she has been working on finding a vet for two and a half years and she has found a vet for the pet fair, but as far as finding a vet to oversee Animal Control and to euthanize healthy dogs you are not going to find anyone. Dr. Benchik also stated one topic that might be discussed, but not be voted on is we have problems staffing and we have problems running the facility correctly – there is a possibility that maybe we let Hammond have Animal Control for East Chicago or Griffith. When you start wanting to euthanize healthy animals; Hammond already has a protocol to kill these dogs – you are never going to find a vet to euthanize these dogs. Dr. Benchik stated, “One of the possibilities is to just put the red flag up and realize we have tried – we have tried extremely hard to have a functioning Animal Control. It is not functioning, it is not up to standards, we can’t get employees - maybe we should let Hammond or another municipality handle this. We are not doing a very good job and it is through no fault of our own, we can’t get staff and now the staff we have at Animal Control if we tell them we want them to be taught how to euthanize dogs that is how we are going to lose staff. This is a problem. I remember when all the animals were euthanized after three (3) days; I think at the time that passed when the board did something it went through as far as the workings of the Health Department, we did not need to take something to the city if our board voted on something within the jurisdiction of the health department and that board. That is probably why it did not go to the city, because I do not ever remember doing that in the past. I remember that the first time I saw where the board voting became not as important is when the rent was not being paid and the board would vote to pay the rent and then it wouldn’t be paid, now this going back ten (10) years. So Diana was trying to find where the Council made it a no kill shelter and I think at the time 10-15 years ago if the board voted on something that had merit and the Health Department functioned off what the board wanted.” Diana explained at that time a vet was on the board. She tried to ask where were the minutes and ran around to all the cabinets and could not find any minutes to see where the board has passed it. Dr. Benchik stated, “Even if you say it was not passed the Mayor called Diana today and was very emphatic about putting all these animals down. He may want that, but without a vet there is no way I am going to sacrifice my DEA number to buy medications to put animals down.” Diana explained the DEA needs to be assigned to a vet and the Animal Control facility. Dr. Libiran asked if we

could ask Hammond”. Diana stated she did and the way Laney said it was we need to find a vet. Dr. Libiran asked if we could ask them if they could help out. Diana said she could ask. Diana read from the email, “you would need to find a vet to ‘sponsor’ your facility. That vet would then certify your staff to be able to euthanize. That name is necessary in order to order your narcotics. Also, you will need a DEA license as well as an Indiana Board of Pharmacy License.” Natalie asked if Hammond has all of this. Diana answered they do have all of that. Dr. Libiran said the best option is to ask them if they would do it for us. Diana said she can ask. Natalie asked what other cities are doing about animal control. Diana explained they are not under Health – Gary is under Police and Lake County is under the Sherriff. Dr. Benchik stated Griffith does not euthanize. They do have a vet if they have a sick dog. She does not think they euthanize animals that are not sick or compromised. They have quite a program for adoption. They have quite a bit of money and city sponsoring. She has gone to some of their open houses and the whole town is pretty much involved with Griffith’s. They do have a vet because there are some unincorporated areas and they have had some horses that were neglected and very sick, but they do have a vet. She has contacted that vet to try to come on to East Chicago, but he would not. Rev. Wade asked, “What is the alternative?” Dr. Benchik stated the alternative is one of the things she brought up and that is to see if Hammond would take it over (not just bringing this up, it would have to be discussed ad nauseam) and she realizes that is quite a statement. She does not think our Animal Control is able to work under the provisions that we have with the staffing that we have. She has tried for two (2) plus years to try to get a vet. She recently talked to Dr. Katz and he does not want to work with East Chicago and she does not know where that is coming from. She found a vet for the festival, but that vet will not have anything to do with euthanizing animals. This is a real problem, there is an extreme vet shortage in the nation. It is impossible almost to hire employees. We have some good employees right now and thinks we will lose the good employees if they have to start euthanizing animals and that is not going to happen unless we have a vet and these people are certified to euthanize. She does not see that happening and the Mayor wanting them euthanized right away – we cannot do that. Crossroads will not put our animals down if they are healthy because the Mayor wants it or because we are full, they just will not do it. Natalie stated we are trying to understand what other cities are doing because they are also full because no one can take these pets because everyone is full. Dr. Benchik stated Lake County has a program with the prisoners. There are other municipalities, but they have programs and quite a bit of backing from the community. She knows Hammond has backing from the community. We do have rescues that pick up our animals, but the phone call was made to Diana today more or less saying this has to happen right now, these animals have to be put down now. We would love to put them down, but it is not something you can just do. Natalie stated she thinks she also is presenting that incorrectly – we have dogs that we have had there a long time, we have more dogs than we have pens. What he is saying is that we have dogs that we still need to pick up and we do not even have room for the dogs we need to pick up, because some of these dogs have been there a long time; we are not talking about the dogs we just picked up yesterday some of the dogs have been there a long time. Dr. Benchik agreed, but asked what do we do with them? Dr. Benchik stated today Griffith was notified; Lake County was notified. Diana stated she reached out to Pitty Rescue, because they have been coming and picking up some of our animals, but then we pick up more. They pick up the ones they feel are adoptable. Natalie asked so the ones that have been there a long time are not adoptable? Diana stated probably not. Natalie stated that is the conversation we need to have and she does not want the people to think that this just happened. She stated, “We have had this conversation for several years for us to figure out an option”. Dr. Benchik stated we are working on it and we are not running the place to standards so why not let a facility that has all the licensing done let, has the vets on board, let them take on the City’s Animal Control. Natalie responded, “I don’t think he would necessarily have a problem with that, but that is an unrealistic expectation that Hammond is going to say yes.” Dr. Benchik replied, “They are not going to do it for free; they would be paid.” Natalie said pay or no pay she does not believe they would take on all of Animal Control. Dr. Benchik stated she does not know. She is trying to think of different options. This is something that she works on every day

and this is a problem. The people who let their dogs out are not fined, nothing is done so the problem is not going away, it is continually getting worse and Diana has brought up the violation ticket – this is a problem that is out of control. Natalie said she thinks that is what the Mayor is saying. There is a problem that is out of control. He has been asking for several years to present him with some options of what we can do to get it under control – not just I need a vehicle for picking up. We are talking about not having room and some of these pits that are not adoptable. Dr. Benchik stated Crossroads will not put them down. We do not know if Hammond will put them down for us – I highly doubt it. It is hard to get people to put healthy animals down. It is not something that you can just pull into a Vet Emergency Clinic and say this dog has been there a long time, it cannot be adopted will you please euthanize. They will not do it. Dr. Reed asked if we knew who the veterinarian is who has the collaboration with Hammond. Diana explained she spoke to Hammond today and she said you would need to find a vet, but Diana would ask tomorrow. Dr. Benchik stated she thinks it is Dr. Katz, but Dr. Katz wants nothing to do with our animals. Diana said she would speak with Laney again tomorrow and check to find out for sure. Dr. Libiran requested we all our options other than Hammond. Diana stated Munster is a no kill. Dr. Benchik explained they have programs and the community is involved, they have staffing and they have financial support and when you have all that you have girl scout parties, all of these other things that gets the animals adopted. Diana explained Munster has big programs with Lynwood, IL. Dr. Reed asked about even more northern cities in Illinois. Diana stated she has called all the way almost to Wisconsin. They have a husky there and called the husky rescue. Paws of Illinois is always adopting dogs, but they have these huge programs financially. Dr. Libiran stated the first issue we need to take care of is the 23 dogs. We need to find out if any of these rescues can help take some, even half. Dr. Benchik stated Diana has reached out to them and told them this is DEFCON one, hopefully they will help us. When there are situations when places are really full they have come out. Dr. Libiran said the second thing is issuing these violations because this is where they are coming from. Diana explained she gave the new duplicate violation tickets to Animal Control and told them they need to start fining people, cannot just be riding around. Dr. Libiran feels this is part of the problem that we are allowing people have these animals and these people do not care and they just release them which is causing more problems for us. Diana stated they have a list now and when they get call from police or it comes on the dashboard they follow up with the people or if it is a dog bite - a lot of the dog bites are loose dogs. It is a huge problem with these loose dogs, but who do you fine – they have no owner because they are loose or they had an owner. People are just letting their dogs go because people cannot afford to take care of them anymore. We have seen people come into the city and just let their dogs out of their van. What do you do at that point? Natalie said that she thinks that is where he (the Mayor) is. Yes, maybe we have talked about and yes maybe we were working on it, but nothing has ever been presented to at least us as the board to say okay we want to try to implement this adoption program like this area has and this is what it would take and this is what it would do – that is not presented, there are no options ever presented, we do talk about it, but there are no options presented of what do we do to get out of this bind where we have more dogs than we have space. Diana stated Animal Control had decompressed a couple of months ago when the rescues came and took some of the dogs, but every day you have more dogs loose. Dr. Benchik stated if we decided to have an adoption program that would be overtime for the employees so that would be a no. Natalie stated that is something you would have to present and that would have to come back, you cannot make those assumptions - you would have to say only way for us to get on board with this is we checked with all these cities and none will take our dogs, we cannot even get a vet, we cannot become a kill shelter because we have to have this, this and this; the only thing we see might be able to do is have an adoption program and it is going to cost this, you are going to need this to staff and at that point if the answer comes back no then at least we know we at least presented something. Diana said we tried and we were even waiving the adoption fee and maybe only two (2) were adopted and one (1) was just brought back. Diana said maybe a month ago someone who adopted the dog said Shadow had run away, but that is not Shadow. We found Shadow on the street. She adopted the dog, but then she let the

dog loose instead of calling us. These are the barriers that we encounter with people – we are giving them to you, not even charging you. They were not even jumping on that. She understands that maybe they cannot afford their dog anymore and they ask what they are supposed to do. We tell them they can call. Natalie said whatever those options are that you feel you have exhausted have not been presented, it has been verbalized, but none of them have been presented in a form that we can try A, B or C. These are the challenges for A, B and C. Diana said she can type of the challenges where we were waiving the fee. Natalie explained we want not just that; we want the documentation here is our adoption program – it has flaws, what can we do to make it better? Waiving the fees did not do it, but these other cities have these adoption programs. Diana said we can try that. Dr. Benchik said anything you try to have is going to run so many hoops that it will never happen. If we try to have a program like that and have people be at animal control 2 nights a week until 9 o'clock and have hamburgers and hotdogs it is just not going to happen. Natalie asked why they need to be there until 9 o'clock at night. Dr. Benchik explained they have programs in Griffith during the summer and have cookouts. Dr. Wade asked if a dog is not being nurtured and with the overcrowding and there are no other alternatives, but just to euthanize the dog and we cannot do that and the dog can just be there - what is the mindset of the veterinarian who says I am just not going to euthanize the dog unless the dog bites someone? Dr. Benchik said there was a dog there for three (3) years and she felt bad about it and she took that dog. The dog was labeled as aggressive and the dog is fine. She has had the dog for two (2) years now and as soon as you get them out of that environment they are fine, but the problem is she cannot take anymore dogs. What these rescues do is start working with these animals. What Lake County does, they have the people at the jail work with the animals so they start getting the socialization. When you start spending time with the animal they are fine, but we do not have the resources to do that. Dr. Libiran stated the biggest problem, we can do a lot of programs, but staffing is the big issue and we are already stretched out. First option is asking other animal control programs if they can help with the 23 we already have because that is the most pressing. Dr. Benchik feels ticketing these people need to occur and this is not happening. Natalie said that is not going to help the overcrowding, if anything that will make it worse, now you are going to fine people and you need to keep the dog. Diana said you cannot on a loose dog because you do not know who the owner is. Natalie said the dog that has been loose has wreaked havoc in that neighbor and no one knows who he belongs to. He has had the post office shut down from delivering mail over there, mail on two (2) blocks for weeks because they refused to deliver mail over there. The Police went and tried to shoot the dog. The dog goes to Hammond. Diana said they tried to catch him with a cage and someone opened the cage. Dr. Libiran asked what if we asked the Police Department handle it. Diana said it is not going to be any different and they are limited also in their resources. Dr. Reed suggested maybe if we partner with some of these places that have established programs if we could partner with 5 of them they each take 2 each of our dogs. Diana stated we have called and they are full, they cannot. We have even called them to come to our pet fair, some have agreed, but some have not even gotten back to us. They do not respond. Diana said we are trying. Dr. Reed asked if Dr. Roper is available, she was not able to come to the meetings regularly because she had a small child, but maybe she is now. Diana explained they work as we work for an entity and they are not just free just to leave so if they cannot come on virtually they are unable to make a commitment. Dr. Reed said she does not know if we parted ways on bad terms with Dr. Roper, but she might be in a different place in her life that she might be available if we have a number for her maybe we could consider calling her. Diana said she does not have a number for her and does not know where she is at. Natalie asked, "Hammond only confines them for three (3) days? Diana clarified that is our ordinance. Natalie asked, "We just don't do this"? Dr. Benchik explained that got changed, but at the time it got changed it did not go through the city when the board implemented policy and procedure it just happened - this new way that it has to go through the Council that did not used to happen in the past. Natalie said that it should have always happened in the past. Dr. Benchik stated, but it didn't. Natalie said so it didn't change because you have to change it as an ordinance or a law. Dr. Benchik stated she was just telling her what used to happened, not trying to debate it, but

when the board voted on something it happened now whether that was correct or not, obviously it was not correct, but that is why it did not go to the Council when the board voted something it became policy and procedure right then and there. Diana confirmed she would call Hammond, Lake County and try to reach Dr. Roper. Natalie asked if we were calling these places to see if there is a long-term process and not just to see if they will take some of these dogs now. Diana said what she will do is see if we can work with them to see if we can have a more permanent process. She has been given her tasks and will complete her tasks, you all can decide on what other tasks you want her to complete these are the tasks she is going to complete, if you all have process you want to implement then you all put it on the table and she will make it happen, but she will not do it all. She has her tasks to do. Natalie stated we do not even know the process even if we said okay Mayor you have to hire some people who are just going to do this and house them over there at Animal Control and we need a vet and we need DEA license and we need this, that and the other, but without this I do not even know to tell him that. Dr. Libiran suggested she do the tasks she has now first before she overloads herself. Diana stated she is already overloaded. She stated she will work on this because she does not want to hear that we are not working on something; she does not want to hear that anymore. She is responsible, but this is not the only thing she has to do. Dr. Libiran if she cannot do it then maybe it should go to another department. Diana stated the Police is not the department. She stands with them because they have limited resources as do we. She has been trying to get Animal Control Officer that is part time get on full time. Dr. Reed stated we are not saying you are not working on it. Natalie stated she thought Arnita took care of Animal Control so why doesn't she outsource this to her? Diana stated, "I have done that to her, just like you have to follow up on the thing and doctor has to follow up with her. What is the date? Like I told her what is the date, just give us the date. What is the date?" Natalie stated, but she cannot give us the date without the vet. Dr. Benchik stated, "I gave the vet the date. You cannot get anything out of her. It is the 26th. I told her that is the date I told the vet and then she stands there and doesn't ever follow through and it is like okay you are going to lose this vet because you cannot change the date on this lady." Diana stated, "You cannot keep changing if the vet knows it is the 26th then it is the 26th you cannot be moving around. Natalie asked Dr. Benchik if she could please send her the vet information because she wants to pay the woman; she needs her W-9 - she needs her name. Dr. Benchik stated she gave her that information and she would give it again. Natalie replied, "No, you verbally told me someone's name. I need her name, address, phone number, email. I need to email her a W-9 in order to pay her and to invoice. Diana stated, "And still if you look at that sheet she sent, that spreadsheet you have only a couple people that said, but we need the other people." Dr. Reed asked, "When it is supposed to be?" Diana replied, "The 26th of August; that is a Saturday which is National Dog Day or Pet Day I think." Diana stated, "We are getting a truck for them because they need something with a lift to be able to pick up a dog. That has been approved. The Controller is going to Board of Works to present that for payment so we will be getting a truck." Diana stated, "The Pet Fair development date is to be determined by Arnita Fowlkes, but this old because I had finished that, but it is the 26th."

- Diana updated the Board that they do not have anyone for Vector Control. It is extremely expensive - one company wanted over \$200,000.00 and Clark Mosquito where we get our products from is \$126,000.00. Diana is going to call Gary Health Department because they have someone and will ask Veronica again. She spoke to her last year, but she said Gary is big and he really does not want to get another job, but she will ask again. Natalie stated, "Or I guess maybe even just to understand better what does he do? Because maybe we could still talk to that other smaller company, but I think the attorney told us to wait until he mailed some letters or something." Nick said they sent something to the person who was dealing with records processing for the item stating we were rejecting all offers. Natalie asked, "So we are clear to have discussion with anyone else?" Nick stated, "Yes, and the service contract theoretically you can procure it in any way you see fit. Which means you do not necessarily have to solicit multiple quotes or do anything like the RFP that we did. Obviously, the eyeball test always looks better if you have gone after multiple avenues and kind of evaluated multiple things to make sure you

are not just handing it to somebody, but you can do that.” Natalie suggested to contact the person is Gary to find out. She asked if that means he is the only one spraying or they work under his license and he has other people? Diana stated it was her understanding from her that he is the only one spraying. Natalie stated before we had Hector there was another older gentleman that we worked under his license. Diana stated she did not know. Natalie said we would have to ask Arnita because before we had Hector there was another older white man and we just worked under his license – the staff still did it and he had to come out every so often. Diana said she will ask. Natalie said even if it is not him if we could use that same type of process we probably could get people - even the guy she talked to, but can he come out and can he spray all of East Chicago probably not, but if we could go back and do what we did under that gentleman where we worked under his license and he had to train them. There were certain things he had to do in order for people to work under his license.

- Diana told the Board they have already started the immunization grant and she gave them flyers to feel free to share. They are going to be all over the city. Diana is going to the Council meeting next week because this is a reimbursable grant and we will be sending our invoices to the State monthly.
- Diana stated the Beach grant is already underway and will also go to Council on the 13th.
- Diana updated the Board on the Emergency Preparedness position. She received an email from Sandra that she is able to hire an East Chicago resident who works at St. Catherine and worked at the University of Chicago, has the background and she has accepted.
- Diana stated the Health Department can start billing private insurance through VaxCare.
- Diana stated she put in the budget for scanning of all Birth and Death records because the books are falling apart. Natalie asked if Diana had exhausted the other money that was sitting and asked if she could use that money for the scanning. Diana will ask.
- Diana stated she did a PAF on the 16th for Martin Larios to change from part time to full time and she is waiting for approval.
- Diana explained Emergency Preparedness gives us a base grant that is always \$25,000.00, but now wants to give us \$18,000.00 as part of the CRI. She has not moved forward with that because she wanted to get Board approval first. The Board agreed for Diana to move forward in the process.
- Diana stated she had received an email from Roland Walker, the Health Officer for Gary, and he has been advocating for Gary and East Chicago. They are in Enrollment Act 4 pertaining to us as a Health Department. They have all this money that they are dispersing to the local health departments. East Chicago could potentially get at the low end \$306,000.00 and at the maximum \$408,000.00 the first year and the second year \$613,000.00 minimum and \$817,000.00 maximum. What would have to happen though is Lake County Commissioners would have to opt in in order for us to get it. In the email, he has been in contact with Dr. Lindsey Weaver who is now the Health Officer (Dr. Box is no longer the Health Officer) and she details and explains how this process would go. Everything is dependent on us doing the funding requirements which most we already do, but the Commissioners would have to opt in first. Dr. Benchik asked what East Chicago would get if Lake County do not want to participate. Diana stated we would get our legacy money which is not much. Natalie asked what the money is to be used for. Diana responded for the Health Department to do core services that have to be done which a lot of which we already do. Diana explained the Health Department can partner with people and businesses also. Natalie asked if any of this can be used for staffing. Diana stated we can hire. Natalie asked if there is anything we need to do. Diana stated she is just letting the board know what is coming down the pike. Natalie asked if Diana

thought this is something that needs to be sent to administration so they are aware this is coming. Diana stated she wanted to ask the board first. The board agreed this should be sent now so we are not waiting for an answer. Natalie pointed out the email states there are steps that need to be done before September 1st. Nick explained the difference under this is that money that would have come directly to the Health Department from the state is the past now has to be filtered through the county. From reading the statute or from reading the email, he does not get the impression that it is going to be broken out that the Commissioners will fund this, but not this. He thinks it is more of just an allocation – we get certain amount of dollars at the county and the county distributes it and East Chicago gets x amount of dollars from the county. He feels that in the months to come there will be discussions with the Commission as to what the Commission sees fit to do and that the Health Department should move this up to anyone they possibly can because there is going to be a benefit to anyone who has relationship with the Commission and to anyone who could build those because there is an extra step now. He does think that everyone at the city level needs to be made aware so that they can talk to their people at the county level. Natalie asked from reading the email the Health Department is not the only one who could benefit from these funds; we could partner with other entities and it looks to her they want something from us by September 1st. It reads next step is to convene your local partners, establish a health plan and budget and it looks to her like they want something from us in order to meet. Nick stated he thinks what Dr. Walker is getting at because he thinks what he is getting at is that there needs to be some assurance that the county is going to opt in and take these funds they will distribute them. What he is saying is that we would love to submit a plan, we would love to submit a proposed budget, we would love to submit all of that, but until we know whether or not they are going to take these funds. Nick thinks one of the issues we are going to run into the budget season for the city is like August usually and the deadline for this says by September 1st is their deadline to vote so he thinks the urgency is he is trying to get the Commission to make that decision before the city makes its budget process. Natalie stated it reads to her before they even opt in they want some kind of plan and thinks that list needs to be included in whatever we give them. Diana agreed with that. Nick will work on this from the county angle a little bit to see if he can get some information as to what we need to do and then report back.

- Diana told the Board the Health Department will be involved in a drill tomorrow for a medical surge radiological event. It is a dirty bomb and it is going to be a big drill.

VII. HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE:

- The Animal Fair is going to be August 26th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, a motion was made by Natalie Adams and second by Loretta Parker to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.