

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
CITY OF DE PERE, WISCONSIN – September 21, 2020**

The Board of Health of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin met in regular (virtual) session in the Council Chambers at City Hall, on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Hibray at 5:34 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Casey Nelson, Kelly Ruh, Dennis Hibray, Teresa Gulyas and Dr. Michael McHenry. Also present were Dr. Steve Stroman, Kristin Johnson, Deborah Armbruster, Danielle Jauquet, Trista Groth and Kelly Burke. Officer Renon was also present. Public attendees included Seth Sheikh, Christine McMullin, Katie and Mark Bischoff.

3. Approval of March 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Casey Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Michael McHenry to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020 Board of Health Meeting. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Hearing regarding the City of De Pere Determination of Dangerous Animal Order from 08/18/2020

The Dangerous Animal Order alleges that on June 10, 2020 and August 7, 2020 a dog owned by Seth Sheikh, 1159 Coral Street, chased or approached a person in a menacing fashion or apparent attitude of attack without provocation on private or public property.

Deborah Armbruster explained that on August 18th in conjunction with the police chief, it was determined that this dog could be considered a dangerous dog due to the injuries sustained and the Dangerous Animal Order was written and served. The next day Seth Sheikh sent a letter asking the issue to be brought to the Board of Health to determine if this order needs to be set forth or if other arrangements could be made.

Officer Renon explained that on July 10th, the victim, Katie Bischoff, was outside by the north side of her house when the neighbor's dog came at her while she was facing away. The dog, Reggie, bit Katie in the back of the upper left leg. Katie yelled and used the leash to swat the dog. Katie identified the dog as a large brown and white bulldog and identified the owner's house. Officer Renon spoke with the owners, Seth and Kristen. Kristen said their 2 year old opened the door and the dog got out. By the time she got over there, the dog was running back.

Officer Renon reported that the second incident occurred on August 7th. The victim was Christine McMullin. Christine was out watering plants when she heard the jingle of the dog's collar. The dog ran up behind her and bit her. There were 2 puncture wounds on her right arm and more puncture wounds on her lower right buttocks with swelling. Christine commented that the dog is always loose. She said the dog looked similar to a pit bull and it was brown and white. It was

determined that the dog was Reggie, belonging to Seth and Kristine. Officer Renon made contact with the residence, but the owners were not home. The babysitter, Sheila, noticed the dog needed to go out and had put the collar for the electronic fence on the dog and let him out. The dog did get shocked, but ran through the fencing to the neighbor and bit her.

Katie Bischoff gave her statement of the incident on July 10th. She indicated that the prior summer the bulldog had attacked the neighbor's dog, unprovoked. The concern with this incident was that upon the door opening, the dog immediately ran straight toward her. Katie made no eye contact with the dog and had her backed turned when the dog bit her. Katie reported that they are fearful to spend time in their yard. Mark, her husband, has also had an incident with the dog approaching him, but he faced the dog with confidence and it didn't bite him. Per Mark, they also heard from a neighbor that the dog had bit someone walking by, but they were unable to obtain a name.

Christine McMullin gave an account of her incident on August 7th. She explained that at the time of the incident she was outside alone doing gardening. She heard the jingle of the collar and the next thing she knew the dog was on her back biting her right arm. She got the dog off her back and then it started biting her behind. This was unprovoked. They no longer go outside alone and always take a tool with them if needed. They do not let their grandchildren outside due to this.

Seth, the dog owner, spoke and said that the night of the second incident they went over and spoke with the boyfriend of the victim. He informed them it was just a small scratch and she (the victim) had gone to work. The police told Seth she (the victim) had gone to the hospital. Seth was confused by the discrepancy between the boyfriend and the officer.

Seth added that he also talked with Mark, the husband in the first incident, and gave him money for hospital bills. Seth had not heard of any incidents with a person walking by. Seth apologized and said the dog was in training and was doing great in his classes. They have had the dog for 5 years and have not had any incidents before this. They are installing door locks to keep the children from letting him out, but he doesn't believe his dog would do this unprovoked.

Christine McMullen, the 2nd victim, spoke again. She said she does not know who Seth spoke with but she does not have a boyfriend, she has a husband, and Seth did not talk with either one of them. Christine has medical records she can provide as proof that she has been seen by a physician multiple times. She still has a pocket of hematoma in the buttock area that is not resolving and may need a surgery. Per Christine, this is a serious incident and it cannot happen again.

Seth apologized that he may have gone to the wrong house as he went to the one right next door.

Casey Nelson asked Seth when the electric fence was installed. Seth replied it was installed after the first incident. In the second incident the shock collar was on the dog when he was let out.

Dr Mc Henry asked if the fencing was professional installed or self-installed? Seth replied it was self-installed but is working. Seth indicated that they do not have the shock setting turned up to the maximum and he can turn it up higher if he needs to.

Dennis Hibray asked where the victims live. Christine lives in the next duplex building over from the dog. Katie's yard is directly behind the owner's yard.

Terry Gulyas asked what the vet said. Seth replied that Reggie has a clean bill of health and aggression was not discussed with the vet.

Mike McHenry asked if there was any aggression towards his children. Seth replied that there was absolutely no aggression with his kids.

The Board of Health went into closed session for discussion.

After discussion, the Board determined that the allegations contained in the determination of a dangerous animal ordered on August 18th, 2020 are sustained. The Board finds that the dog owned by Seth Sheikh, known as Reggie, is dangerous. Therefore the dog must be removed from the City within 48 hours of receiving written notification of this determination. Casey Nelson made a motion to uphold the order made by the Health Director on August 18, 2020. Kelly Ruh seconded the order. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Introduce new full time nurse, Danielle Jauquet

Deborah Armbruster announced that Danielle Jauquet has been a public health nurse for over 4 years and has been in some managerial roles with the Brown County Health Department, leading the communicable disease surveillance teams and teaching contract tracers. The transition into her role in De Pere has been very smooth.

6. Draft of 2021 De Pere Health Department and Board of Health Budget

Deborah Armbruster asked if there were any questions regarding the Budget. Casey Nelson asked if there were concerns going into the next year. Debbie responded that we received COVID grants through December, 2020 and one extends into 2021. Word is that we (Health Department) should receive more funding in 2021 for COVID and some of our existing grants may be used for COVID response. This has allowed the Administrative Assistant to be full time as well as our second nurse to be full time. We have also hired a limited term employee for 20 hours/week. We just hired another contact tracer for 10 hours per week to assist on the weekends. Debbie does not have a concern with our funding right now. Dr. Michael McHenry made a motion to approve the draft budget. Casey Nelson seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed.

7. Community Health Updates regarding Outreach Activity and Disease Report

Debbie explained that due to COVID we have done very little outreach right now. The disease incidence report is included. Debbie explained that the Health Department has extended their hours to later at night and started with Saturday hours to assist with the contact tracing. Dennis Hibray asked how the residents were responding to being contact by the Health Department. Debbie explained that the public has become more resistant and less forthcoming recently. Debbie explained that some parents send their kids to school when they should be quarantined. Dennis asked how our communication was with the school. Debbie explained that we are advisors to the school nurses and the school nurses are great. We are in constant contact with the nurses regarding positive cases and contacts. We have seen some spikes at St. Norbert and the St. Norbert nurses have been doing an excellent job handling those cases.

8. Dissolution Bridges of Fox River Consortium and future agreement with City of Menasha

The Bridges of Fox River Consortium disbanded as of July 1st. Trista is an independent agent. Trista was set to go through the standardization process in October, but the Dept. of Agriculture has ceased doing these until 2021. This will not affect our agent status. We are in process of creating an MOU with Menasha to assist each other as needed.

9. Update on the progress of State Standardization Process for Sanitarian

Trista was set to go through the standardization process in October, but the Dept. of Agriculture has ceased doing these until 2021. They are waiting for a safer time to complete this. Trista will not be standardized at this time, but this will not affect our agent program.

10. Updates on COVID-19

Deborah Armbruster reported that Hemlock school has closed for 2 weeks. De Pere Middle school may also be closing. We have weekly meetings with the Medical Providers. Dr Rai has a medical actuary who looks at the cases in the area. Per the actuary, we are between 12% and 17% positivity in the last 14 days. The Department of Health Services shows Brown County having greater cases per 100,000 people than Milwaukee.

11. Discussion on Board of Health meetings in regards to frequency and special meetings

Debbie explained that some Council members may have wanted the Board of Health to meet more often during the pandemic and to discuss and provide guidance on some issues such as the mask ordinance. Debbie asked if the Board wanted to change how we meet and when. Debbie explained that the guidance from CDC and the state has been fairly straightforward. Theresa Gulyas stated that she thought Debbie and her team were doing a great job. Dr. McHenry asked how often Debbie was in contact with the Medical Director. Dr. Stroman replied that early in the pandemic, they were together every day at the Emergency Operations Center for a period of 2 months. Dr. Stroman receives a

situation report from Debbie and the Department every day. Dr. Stroman and Debbie have met in person weekly or every other week. They have been communicating frequently. Dr. Stroman explained that we are following the lead from the CDC and State. They have been very forthcoming with plans.

Dr. McHenry suggested we continue our current meeting schedule unless we feel a special meeting is warranted. Dennis Hibray feels the daily reports are helping keep the Board of Health informed. Dennis feels we can leave it up to Debbie if she feels we need a special meeting.

12. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda

No comments were made

8. Future Agenda Items

Dennis Hibray stated that on his voting ballot, there was a question about whether the health officer should have the authority to issue orders such as masking, or if it should go to the County Board. Debbie explained that that only applies to Brown County, not De Pere. Casey added his understanding was it was a non-binding referendum advisory.

8. Adjournment

Casey Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Theresa Gulyas seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Burke
Health Department Administrative Assistant