**BROOKS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 15, 2022**

The Brooks County Board of Health met at the Brooks County Board of Commission Office in their conference room Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

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| **Members Present** | **Members Absent** | **Others Present** |
| James Maxwell, Chairman | Shelly Kirkendoll | Dwain Butler |
| Dr. Rose Marie Horne, Vice-Chairman |  | Patrina Bowles |
| Toni Brinson |  | Teresa Giles |
| June Furney |  | Anna Newsom |
| Dr. Vickie Reed |  | Shannon Walker |

**Call to Order**

* Mr. Maxwell called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. and offered prayer.

**Public Comments**

* Guests invited included staff of the Brooks County Board of Commission. Mr. Maxwell welcomed the guests and invited them to have lunch and join the meeting if their schedules allowed.

**Approval of August 23, 2022 Minutes (Attached)**

* Dr. Horne made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brinson. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**New Business:**

**Financial Information** – **Teresa Giles (Attached)**

* Ms. Giles presented the Brooks County Health Department’s Revenue and Expense Summary noting all looks good with Brooks’ budget with no revisions made. The budget will be reviewed at the first of the year.
* There have been conversations regarding the utility bills at the health department, specifically with the water. Mr. Maxwell added the county is looking into the matter.
* Fees have decreased approximately $4,000; however, the decrease was anticipated due to the decrease in demand for COVID vaccinations. Fees are slowly increasing.

**Public Health Updates – William R. Grow, MD, FACP (By Dwain Butler)**

* Mr. Butler presented the Public Health updates and began by informing the Board about the prevalence of flu in the news. Georgia has recorded record flu cases in more than a decade. This may be due to everyone being more careful with masking for the last couple years.
* It was also noted there was an increase in Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

**Nurse Manager’s Report – Anna Newsom, RN (Nurse Supervisor) (Attached)**

* Ms. Newsom announced all services are available and provided by the Brooks County Health Department.
* Tuberculosis (TB) skin tests were provided to students in the healthcare class for Certified Nursing Assistant at the high school. Twenty-seven tests were administered.
* COVID testing and vaccinations are still available as well as free at-home test kits.
* All school-based flu vaccination clinics have been completed. Flu vaccine is still available to the community.
* The health department’s annual Vaccines For Children (VFC) audit was conducted October 27, 2022 with no noncompliance issues noted.
* Daycare and school immunization audits have been completed.
* The new registered nurse has completed women’s health and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) training in Macon in August. She is currently working to complete protocol requirements at the health department.

**Environmental Health Update - Shannon Walker (Attached)**

* Mr. Walker indicated nothing out of the ordinary with environmental health services.
* Over the last two weeks there have been six-seven bites reported.
* There have been some changes in rules from the state which with regard to mobile units which will become effective in January. Any mobile unit permitted in Georgia can go to other counties in Georgia without needing additional permits; however, the county still has regulatory authority. Environmental Health will still inspect the base and the others will still be permitted in Brooks but not those new units coming in.
* The animal bites were clarified as dog bites.
* A brief discussion was held regarding stray cats in the county. Mr. Walker confirmed there is an overwhelming number in the area but there is no humane way to deal with them. He added some people conduct “catch and release” methods where the animals are spayed or neutered and released. The tips of their ears are cut to indicate they have been fixed.

**Announcements**

* Dr. Reed announced the end of school for the Christmas break until January and noted possible changes in the backpack policy, which will be discussed over the summer.
* Dr. Horne commended the Brooks County Board of Commission for regulating ordinances and thanked her fellow Board members for their service.
* Mr. Maxwell thanked the chairman of the board of commissioners for use of the meeting room for the board meetings.

**Adjournment**

* There being no further business, Dr. Reed made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Horne. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Shelly Kirkendoll, Board Secretary

Patrina Bowles, Typist