

Menasha aldermen occasionally attend meetings of this body. It is possible that a quorum of Common Council, Board of Public Works, Administration Committee, Personnel Committee may be attending this meeting. (No official action of any of those bodies will be taken).

**CITY OF MENASHA
BOARD OF HEALTH
July 25, 2011
Minutes**

- A. Meeting called to order by Chairman Candyce Rusin at 6:32 PM.
- B. Present: Candyce Rusin, Dr. Teresa Rudolph, Dorothy Jankowski, Lori Asmus, Susan Nett
Others present: Mayor Don Merkes, Jerold Finch, Chuck Farrey, Joanne Sievert
- C. MINUTES TO APPROVE
1. Motion to approve minutes from June 8, 2011 meeting made by D. Jankowski and seconded by T. Rudolph. Motion carried.
- D. REPORT OF DEPT HEADS/STAFF/CONSULTANTS
1. June 2011 Communicable Disease Report distributed and discussed. S. Nett explained one of the latent cases of TB was in a young child who will require directly observed therapy twice weekly for 9 months. Currently the family brings the child to the health department. Once school is in session, the school health aide will be able to administer the medication in school. S. Nett explained also about the case of salmonella as now is the time when an increase in enteric diseases is noted. This particular case was not foodborne but rather was related to a reptile in the home and inadequate hand washing.
- E. ACTION ITEMS
1. Winnebago County Health Department Merger Study----Review and Recommendation. S. Nett was asked to review with board members the current status of the Winnebago Public Health Study Baker Tilly draft report and what impacts for the city were noted. S. Nett explained the purpose of the study is to determine if a county wide consolidation of public health departments is economically feasible and if efficiencies in service could be gained (or in other words, better service for less cost or at least equal service for less cost). S. Nett explained the collaboration with the school district has been a great way to know the families in the community and has been an efficient and effective way of providing public health services since the 1970's. S. Nett explained the preliminary data shows no fiscal benefit to the city and proposes a drastic reduction in services. Some of the programs affected include communicable disease follow-up (mandated by state statute). Currently Menasha's cost per case is the lowest of all four entities in the study and increases 19% under a merged department. It should also be noted that provision of immunizations is part of this program and was not addressed in the draft report. Some calculations done by S. Nett show the Menasha Health Department is again the lowest in cost per individual. A second program affected by a merged department is the young family public health contacts. Menasha Health Department works with many young families. 52% service reduction is proposed with a 50% increase in cost per case for the young family contacts. Adult/elderly public health contacts also has a

"Menasha is committed to its diverse population. Our Non-English speaking population and those with disabilities are invited to contact the Menasha Health Department at 967-3520 at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting for the City to arrange special accommodations."

Board of Health Members: Dorothy Jankowski, Lori Asmus, Susan Nett, Candyce Rusin, Theresa Shoberg

proposed 51% decrease in service with a 204% increase in cost per case. The other notable data is in regards to public health nuisance abatement where currently Menasha's cost per case is the lowest of the four entities. Under a merged department, Menasha cost per case would increase 50%. S. Nett also explained that Menasha is unique from the other three communities in that it is located in 2 different counties. The health department manages the senior center, manages the city's mandated employee safety program, and manages the state mandated weights and measures program. These programs would need to remain with the city under a county merger. S. Nett provided information on the poverty level in the city which according to the state data is at 34.7% (the highest of the four entities). There are services being provided using grant funds and fee reimbursements that were specifically developed to meet the needs of these low income residents. An example was given of the fluoride varnish program, which under a merged department would be eliminated, thus eliminating service to a segment of Menasha's higher risk population. To summarize, the information presented to date in the report, shows no fiscal benefit to Menasha and proposes a drastic reduction in services. S. Nett explained that Baker/Tilly was requesting additional funding to complete and finalize the draft report. S. Nett is requesting a recommendation from the BOH to either continue with the study process or stop at this time with the understanding that a consolidation effort can be re-visited in the future as directed by the Menasha BOH. T. Rudolph questioned if there is money available to continue. S. Nett responded there were no budgeted funds available at this time. C. Rusin questioned how the 2 county issue would work. S. Nett explained that Winnebago County would have to contract with the city of Menasha to be able to provide public health services to the entire city. The city would have to levy for the public health services and reimburse the county. Finance department for the city would have to manage such a contract as well as collect the taxes and then reimburse Winnebago County. C. Rusin questioned if the study shows a decrease in service levels as a way to save money, why can't we do that ourselves? T. Rudolph was concerned about the loss of control the city would have over the types of services the residents may or may not receive. A motion was made by T. Rudolph and seconded by L. Asmus to stop the study process at this time as there were no gains in efficiencies, there was a reduction in services, and there were no cost savings to the city of Menasha. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 4-0 with S. Nett abstaining. A second motion was made by D. Jankowski and seconded by L. Asmus for the BOH to reserve the right to look at other consolidation efforts in the future. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 5-0.

F. HELD OVER BUSINESS

1. None

G. Motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM made by L. Asmus and seconded by D. Jankowski. Motion carried.