

# Minutes of the Public Health Committee Meeting

January 2, 2025 – 5:30 pm

The Public Health Committee met on January 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the W. C. Administrative Complex. Committee members present included Ricky Jones, Jeff Graves, Drew Torres and Steve Smith. Committee members not present included Chris Richards, Pete Stresser and Matt Williams. Commissioners Gregg Lawrence and Bill Petty were in attendance as well.

Also present were County Attorney Sarah Bullock, Animal Control Director Ondrea Johnson and Williamson County Health Department Director Cathy Montgomery.

Chairman Graves noted that no one signed up for Citizen Communication. Chairman Graves called for the acceptance of the December 5, 2024 minutes of the Public Health Committee meeting. Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Committee members reviewed the following resolutions and made the following recommendations:

**Resolution Appropriating And Amending The Local Health Services Grant Agreement With The State Of Tennessee Department Of Health And Increasing The 2024-25 Health Department By \$67,300.00 – Revenues To Come From The State Of Tennessee.** Vice Chair Torres made a motion to recommend approval, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Health Department Director Cathy Montgomery reported that this is cost reimbursement from the state to cover salary increases. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**Resolution Accepting A Donation From The Park Family And Appropriating And Amending The 2024-25 Animal Center Budget By \$9,625.77 – Revenues To Come From Donations.** Vice Chair Torres made a motion to recommend approval, seconded by Commissioner Jones. Animal Control Director Ondrea Johnson told the committee that this donation was in response to the Animal Center taking in 60 cats from storm damaged areas affected by Hurricane Helene. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**Resolution Of The Williamson County Board Of Commissioners Expressing Its Opposition To Fluoridation Of The Public Water Supply Systems And Requesting The Water Utility Companies To Discontinue The Fluoridation Of Public Water Systems in Williamson County.** Commissioner Lawrence quoted studies that detailed the negative effects of fluoride in public water and the many health concerns associated with fluoridation. Commissioner Petty spoke of negative health statistics and of a judgement in court awarded to a county in northern California that wanted to stop the fluoridation of their water. Health Department Director Cathy Montgomery discussed the documented benefits of fluoridation such as improved dental health and general health improvement. Director Montgomery quoted The CDC and the United States Surgeon General's 1995 cornerstone report on the benefits of fluoride. Commissioners Smith states that there have not been enough research to determine the effects of taking fluoride out of public water and he will not support this resolution. Commissioner Jones, who represents the City of Fairview, stated that he would abstain from this vote. The City of Fairview gets their water from Dickson, TN. Commissioner Torres and Graves said they did support the intent behind the resolution, but that this topic requires further research and maybe a recommendation to the state might be the course to take. Due to lack of support, Commissioner Lawrence asked if he could pull the resolution and bring it to the Committee at another time. Vice Chair Torres removed his motion from the floor and Commissioner Lawrence pulled his resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53pm.

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