

MERCER COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
May 18, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING ON PUBLIC HEALTH LINE OF CREDIT

Board convened at 6:32 p.m.

This meeting was held via telephone conference. Roll call showed the following members present via telephone: Board Members DeFrieze, Frieden, Hare, Koepke, Moreland, and Nelson. Board Members Flowers, Gregg, Hawn, and Sarabasa were absent. There was a quorum present. Also present were Carla Ewing, Larry Rhodenbaugh, Crystal Simpson, Diana Eggen, Ron Fullerlove, and Sara Blaser.

There was no public comment.

Carla advised there are \$250,000 in receivables (tax, state payments, 708 money, etc.) that the Public Health Dept is waiting on. She stated that the Public Health Board had met to discuss the best course of action and it was determined that taking out a line of credit is the one that makes the most sense. Throughout the last 5-7 years the Public Health Dept has had to dip into their reserves and they have exhausted all of those resources. Her employees are now covered by grants, but the money has not been received. The Public Health Dept along with its Board is asking for a \$200,000 line of credit to cover operating expenses until those grant funds are received. Due to COVID-19, some of their normal sources of income have disappeared. For instance, they cannot hold immunization clinics or dental clinics and their family services and WIC fees are all on hold until they can open back up. She stated that things are slowly starting to open back up, but it's going to be a long process. Vice Chairman Frieden asked if there is a chance that any of the receivable money won't come in. Carla stated she doesn't think that will happen. She advised that the department has applied for several grants in order keep her staff. In an effort to keep money coming in, they are allowing Project Now to remain in the building and pay rent for the foreseeable future instead of utilizing the space for the Mental Health Action Program (MHAP). Board Member Moreland asked if there are other revenue streams coming in. She stated that grant money is the main source of their funding. Board Member Moreland asked if there was any way to predict if the grant money would still be around a year from now. Carla stated that there is no way to predict if any of the grants will stay available, but she said there are always new grant opportunities at both the State and Federal levels.

Motion to approve the line of credit in the amount of \$200,000 for Public Health by Board Member DeFrieze seconded by Board Member Koepke was approved by vote of the Board.

Motion to adjourn to Tuesday, June 2nd at 6:30 p.m. by Board Member Hare seconded by Board Member Koepke was approved by vote of the Board at 6:48 p.m.