

4th Floor Conference Room

Boone County Courthouse

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** by Shawn Bryant at 5:30 pm
- II. **Attendance:** Present: Shawn Bryant, Erich Hodges, Dr Brian Mehlhaus, and Gary Nystrom.
Absent: Kristine Johansen.

Additional Attendees:

Lydia Billings, Public Health Administrator.

Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.
- III. **Changes & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (03/16/2026).**
 - Motion by Eric Hodges, 2nd by Brian Mehlhaus to approve the 03/16/2026 minutes. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- IV. **Changes & Approval of Meeting Agenda**
 - Motion by Gary Nystrom, 2nd by Brian Mehlhaus to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- V. **Open Public Hearing(s) and Consideration of Request(s)**

A. None.
- VI. **Unfinished (Old) Business**

A. None.
- VII. **New Business.**

A. Discussion on updating the Boone County Ordinance #142 for Septic Contractor installation only in Boone County. Shawn Bryant talked about this and opened it up for discussion among the board members. He said that Boone County currently does not have an ordinance that takes a certified installer to install a septic system. Anyone can install a septic system into your home, and the county must go out and inspect it to make sure it is done properly. He talked about a certain septic system that was being installed and contractor happened to be driving by and saw the sand that was going to be used in the system. The contractor told them they needed to get the sand tested, because it didn't look like it was the right sand. The county went out and took a sample of the sand and tested it. It was not the right sand after all. The owner would have had to dig out all the sand and replace it with the proper approved sand. If that sand had been installed in that sand filter, it would have probably failed prematurely. This could have been very costly and time consuming. Brian Mehlhaus asked to see a copy of the current Ordinance #142, but they did not have a copy on hand. Brian Mehlhaus said, "I agree" we need to have something, but we need to look at the current ordinance and maybe talk to other counties and see how they handle this. This way we would not have to reinvent the wheel. Brian Mehlhaus motioned to table this until the next meeting so they could have more time to investigate this and to look over the Boone County Ordinance #142. Gary Nystrom said that we need to keep in mind that we don't want to make this so tight that only one or two contractors can install septic systems in the county. Shawn Bryant said that we want enough people to be able to do the installations, but the bottom line is that we are looking out for the homeowners. That's all we want to do. Brian Mehlhaus motioned, 2nd by Eric Hodges, to table this until next meeting in July. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

VIII. Department Update

A. Public Health Department Report – Lydia Billings, Public Health Administrator.

Lydia talked about the current vaccination rates for this current quarter. The 2-year-olds met the benchmark at 24 months of age. We're at 63 percent in Boone County. Adolescents, those between 7 years and 19 years of age, 51 percent met benchmark criteria. Boone County HPV vaccination for 13 years to 19 years with having both vaccinations in the series, that is at 59 percent. Lydia also talked about trying to get the one dose version of this vaccine. Public health does not have this vaccine. She also said that Public Health does not see as many people as in the past. Most people in Boone County are established with a health care provider, instead of Public Health. The only people we see now do not have a primary healthcare provider. Brian Mehlhaus asked if Lydia had the immunization certificate percentages, and she said yes but not with her. She said they have seen an uptick in exemptions, primarily religious. Overall, everybody has been very compliant with getting their certificates in. All the Naloxone boxes for Narcan have been installed throughout Boone County. One is outside of Impact in Boone. One outside of Boone Family Medicine in Ogden. One outside of City Hall in Madrid. We have been in touch with Ann Breeding, and she has talked with the owner of What-cha-Smoken in Luther. The owner of the restaurant wants to install one outside the restaurant. The board members had a quick discussion on the installation of another Naloxone box for Luther. They discussed how they could pay for it and get it stocked with Narcan. Lydia said that she would investigate it and could possibly pay for it through Public Health and have the Board of Health reimburse them for the cost. The people from the 99 Counties project with the Iowa Cancer Registry were out in Boone. If you go to the Boone Hospital web page there is a link so you can view the slides and the information specific to Boone. We are going to do a monthly Blood pressure check clinic at Regency in Boone. will be there to

talk about Cancer rates specific to Boone County. She talked about the 28E agreement with Marion County and Public Health for two I-Pad's that will go to appropriately deemed Libraries or health centers so that they can move forward with ordering our Colorectal test screening kits and the free Radon test kits. So, our plan is to go to every community event we can through the fall and even in the winter and get those out. The other thing that we are doing is taking over Blood Drive in Boone and I will let you know more about that later. We are also going to be promoting and rolling out a program called Walk with Ease. It will be countywide and is a evidence based falls prevention program for the elderly. We will also oversee the First Aid station for the overnight Ragbri bike ride. We have been doing a lot of prep and planning for this. July 21st is when they are going to be here in Boone overnight. The last thing I wanted to talk about was the realignment of Iowa HHS and DHS and how Public Health is going to be set up now. They really stressed at our meeting that it is not considered regionalization, what they want to do. She gave a handout to all the board members and went over it. The board talked among each other about this, and Lydia went into detail about how everything would work and how the funds would be divvyed up and distributed. The board members thought that maybe they could hire someone to manage this so that it would be more fare to the rural counties.

B. Health and Sanitation Department Report.

Ed Tharp, Code Enforcement Officer.

Gave an update on what has been happening in the county. He talked about how many septic systems they have been installing around the county. At the time of the meeting, he said that they had 36 septic systems installed and we at 49 septic permits for the year. That is almost half of what we did last year, which was 127 total. He talked about the complaints that he was working on. He also handed out an information

sheet on the Opioid Fund amount and emailed it to each board member also. He gave a handout to the board members for the Grants to Counties well testing. He went over it and talked about the well tests and the well plugging and new wells being constructed in Boone County.

Shawn Bryant asked about well inspections and how many times I had to go look at a new well and I said, that never happens with well drillers.

IX. Adjournment

Shawn Bryant entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Eric Hodges, 2nd by Brian Mehlhaus to adjourn the meeting at 6:03pm. The vote was unanimous, Motion carried.

Next Meeting July 20th, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at the Boone County Courthouse: 4th Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Tharp, Secretary.