

GOODHUE COUNTY
ANNUAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2021

The Goodhue County Health and Human Services Board convened their annual meeting at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, July 1, 2021, at the Cannon Valley Fair, Cannon Falls, MN.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brad Anderson, Jason Majerus, Paul Drotos, Linda Flanders, Susan Johnson, Todd Greseth, and Nina Pagel.

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Nina Arneson, Kris Johnson, Lisa Woodford, and Andrea Benck

MEETING AGENDA:

On a motion by B. Anderson and seconded by J. Majerus, the Board unanimously approved the Annual Meeting Agenda for July 1, 2021.

MEETING MINUTES:

On a motion by J. Majerus and seconded by B. Anderson, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the June 15, 2021 H&HS Board Meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS:

On a motion by B. Anderson and seconded by J. Majerus, the Board unanimously approved the request of a Letter of Non-Participation with the American Queen Steamboat Company (AQSC). P. Drotos shared a newspaper article dated February 15, 1980, about Red Wings 'boat people'. See attached.

ACTION ITEMS:

On a motion by B. Anderson and seconded by P. Drotos, the Board approved the Re-Appointment of HHS Lay Board Member Nina Pagel.

Board Chair L. Flanders read the Oath of Office for Nina Pagel to be officially re-appointed a Member of the Goodhue County Health and Human Services Board, effective July 1, 2021 for a 2-year term. The official Oath of Office was signed by L. Flanders and N. Pagel.

On a motion by B. Anderson and seconded by T. Greseth, the Board unanimously approved the Goodhue County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteer Proclamation.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

N. Arneson, HHS Director, sought nominations for the HHS Board Chair. P. Drotos nominated B. Anderson and seconded by N. Pagel. L. Flanders called to cast unanimous ballot, the Board unanimously approved B. Anderson as new HHS Board Chair.

Board Chair B. Anderson put a call for nominations of the Vice Chair. P. Drotos nominated T. Greseth and seconded by J. Majerus. Board Chair B. Anderson called to cast unanimous ballot, the Board unanimously approved T. Greseth as new HHS Vice Chair.

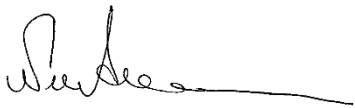
Board Chair B. Anderson put a call for nominations of the Secretary. N. Pagel nominated S. Johnson and seconded by P. Drotos. Board Chair B. Anderson called to cast unanimous ballot, the Board unanimously approved S. Johnson as new HHS Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

Nina Arneson recognized the HHS Lay board members for their years of time and commitment.

ADJOURN ANNUAL MEETING:

On a motion by T. Greseth and seconded by J. Majerus, the Board unanimously approved adjournment of this session of the Annual Health & Human Services Board Meeting at or around 11:20 a.m.



Nina Arneson, HHS Director



Brad Anderson, HHS Board Chair

R.E. 2-15-1980

Red Wing's 'boat people'

From the Gopher Gazette

For many weeks this fall you probably saw or read about the boat people of Vietnam . . . how cruel they were treated when they tried to land on the shores of other countries but were often told, at gunpoint, not to come ashore.

Often they were put back on their boats and towed back out to sea.

In the United States it has been difficult for us to understand how anyone could turn away people who needed help. Such a thing couldn't happen here, or could it?

It could and it did, right here in Minnesota. The year was 1868.

THE BOAT people, in this case, were Finnish immigrants who were heading up the Mississippi to begin a new life in this state. It wasn't that they were Finnish that caused them trouble.

It seems that cholera bacteria had somehow gotten into their food or water and the dreaded disease broke out as they came into Minnesota waters.

Once one person in a group is infected, the terrible illness spreads rapidly among others he comes into contact with.

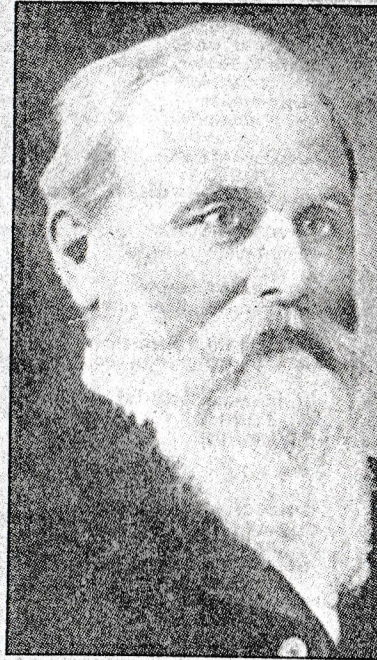
They knew they had to get help for the sick immediately and had to take care so others didn't catch the disease.

At Red Wing they decided to come ashore and seek medical help. As soon as they tied up at the dock and made their plea for help, the city fathers were notified.

They didn't want to see the spread of cholera in their town and knew the residents would be terrified if they learned some strangers were bringing the disease here.

THE ALARMED (and not very clear thinking) officials decided there was just one thing to be done. The boat was untied and cast adrift back into the river current. They would have to take their emergency somewhere else.

The people of Red Wing didn't want to be cruel and heartless but their fear was in control. They had known of



DR. CHARLES HEWITT
... helped Finnish immigrants

epidemics of cholera and realized that, within three to five days after the illness set in, death usually would result.

At this point a true hero came forward.

He was Dr. Charles Nelson Hewitt, a veteran of the Civil War and a man who was completely dedicated to his promise to take care of the sick no matter what the dangers to himself might be.

DR. HEWITT hired a boat owner to take him out to the suffering immigrants and immediately took the problem in hand.

He came on board and tended the sick while instructing the pilot to land on an island. Here the disease could be isolated while those already sick could be treated. Dr. Hewitt arranged for the use of a house on the island, set up camp and got Red Wing to provide money for supplies until the Finns could be returned to health.

Some of them remained forever in graves on that island of refuge but others went on and settled in Northern Minnesota.

1ST BOARD OF HEALTH