

Unofficial Transcript
9/28/2023 Joe Moss on Justin Barclay show

Minute 8:50

Joe Moss: So the board will be asked to consider if you know in their in their opinion the actions and evidence presented show that the interim health officer was incompetent engaged in misconduct and neglect of duty these charges and all the information is public you can see it online a lot of the local news sites and it's going to be posted on the county website as well. And the reason that it's public so far in advance, you know, it's over three weeks out, is because, you know, this is a legislative or legal process and the health officer that our current interim will be given the opportunity, you know, to respond to the charges and to, you know, be represented by her attorney and speak to the issues. I'd say the charges pretty much speak for themselves, but that is, you know, part of the job of the board to determine, you know, if they are sufficient cause for her removal.

Justin Barclay: What are constituents saying, obviously this is all going to have to play out, but I mean, this is what you were all elected to do, this Ottawa County impact movement came at a time when the health department was giving orders down from on high, closing schools, getting involved in doing things, shutting you guys all down when lawsuits were working their way through courts. They were taking these unprecedented steps to kind of go around the law to exert their own will. This is not the current health director is interim and has been the replacement for the one who was in place during that point in time, but this is democracy and actually this is the will of the people playing out. Is it not the people talked to you about this when you were running, this is a major part of your campaign.

Joe Moss: It is Justin, you're right.

Minute 16:18

Justin Barclay: So this will continue to play out here in the public eye. The hearing will happen. You'll vote, decide whether or not that this individual should be removed. And then what happens? Are they removed or is there more of a process there?

Joe Moss: Well, then if that were to occur, if the board were to make that decision on the 19th, then she would be removed, correct. And the board would be responsible for appointing someone new.

Justin Barclay: How fast does that work? Cause I know there are a lot of people that in the meantime would be concerned about whether or not that there would be processes continuing and that the health department would be fully functioning.

Joe Moss: Good, good question. So the health department has probably about a hundred staff members and several director level people. I mean, they would continue on no problem at all. There's a deputy, you know, health officer and others in leadership there. But more importantly, it would be incumbent on the board to have someone in place who would step into that interim role. And actually at the beginning of this year, we did have somebody that the board voted to put into that position.

Justin Barclay: You care to talk about who that is?

Joe Moss: Yeah, so that was Nate Kelly and the board voted in January to appoint him as the health officer. Now that the interim health officer has sued and this process has continued as it has to, we've just been working through those details in the time. And in government, people always joke about how it's hard to make change. But that is based in some reality. You deal with process and law, and you follow every rule cross your T's and dot your I's. And you just do things the right way. And so sometimes it does take longer than people expect. But I would say at least this year, we've been able to do a lot very quickly, starting off with abolishing the DEI department and hiring a new administrator. Some things can be changed quickly and can help course-correct and other things take time.

[Video found at <https://twitter.com/i/status/1707560848871309651>.]