



Ottawa County
Where Freedom Rings

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

10:00 A.M.

NOTICE OF HEARING ISSUED TO REMOVE INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTH OFFICER ADELINE HAMBLEY

A public hearing will be held on October 19, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

West Olive, Michigan – Commissioner Joe Moss issued a Notice of Hearing (with notice of Charges) to remove Adeline Hambley from the position of interim Administrative Health Officer. Ms. Hambley has demonstrated repeated incompetence, misconduct, and neglect of duty in violation of MCL 46.11(n).

A public hearing will be held on October 19, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners room to determine whether, in the Board’s opinion, Ms. Hambley has demonstrated incompetence, misconduct, or neglect of duty, and whether those allegations are sufficient cause for her removal. Ms. Hambley will be given a full opportunity to be heard and may be represented by an attorney. The hearing will be presided over by retired Judge Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.

If Ms. Hambley found budgetary questions or proposals to be unworkable, impossible, or even offensive, she had a professional duty to explain her concerns while working towards a solution that addressed those issues. Instead of working towards a solution, Ms. Hambley resorted to misleading the public and causing fear and panic that the Health Department was going to be imminently closed.

Ms. Hambley knew that she was being dishonest and intentionally misleading the public. For example, while Ms. Hambley was publicly proclaiming that the **completed budget “will be” \$3.8 million and services “would be eliminated,”** she was privately sending emails to her staff that **“services are continuing as usual” until “after October 1, 2024,” and “budgets are being discussed” and “have not been finalized.”** See attached Charges, Exhibits G, L, and O. These instances of duplicitousness and deceit warrant Ms. Hambley’s removal.

As another example, Ms. Hambley told Fox 17 on August 30, 2023 that “I have not been involved in any of the conversations about public health programming and potential cuts.” Yet, just five days earlier on August 25, 2023, Commissioner Gretchen Cosby e-mailed Ms. Hambley requesting information such as the “number of current health department programs,” “descriptions of the programs and services,” the “number of residents served by the individual program,” and “resources required-human/FTE’s and supplies to provide the program[s].” Exhibit H. Ms. Hambley responded to Commissioner Cosby, gave information about programs, and provided “some great info on program performance highlights.” Exhibit H.

Further, while Ms. Hambley publicly claimed that she was bypassed, excluded from the budget process, and had no discussions regarding public health programming, she was privately working with the Finance Department and the County Administrator (Exhibits A, B, D, E, I, K, and P), having discussions with Finance Chair Cosby (Exhibits H, J, M, and N), and being asked to prepare her own budget based upon different scenarios (Exhibits D, E, I, and P). Ms. Hambley’s misrepresentations and dishonesty warrant her removal.

Commissioner Joe Moss stated: “Ms. Hambley dishonestly misled the public and wrongfully proclaimed doomsday scenarios based upon internal budgetary questions and discussions that were never even submitted to the Finance Committee or the entire Board of Commissioners. Ms. Hambley inflicted fear and terror on the community all because of her own misconduct and inability to act competently during the budgetary process.”