BOARD OF HEALTH

September 29, 2026, at 4:00 pm
Dr. Johnson Conference Room
2570 4th St. SW, Ste 1, Mason City, Iowa

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:	Carl Ginapp, Chair Betty Mallen Analisa Haberman, DO Jim Aberg Lisa Koppin (virtual)
Staff:	Kara Vogelson, Public Health Director Marcy Strasheim, Administration Manager Kelli Gerdes, Population Health Manager Jodi Willemsen, Environmental Health & Preparedness Manager Danielle Crail, Environmental Health Specialist I Mahayla Faust, Environmental Health Specialist I
Guests:	Shannon Zoffka, Iowa HHS, Community Health Consultant Gentian Bajrami, Thai Bistro and Sushi Bar, Owner Trevor Russell, Thai Bistro and Sushi Bar, Staff

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Motion by Jim Aberg, second by Analisa Haberman to approve the September 29, 2026, agenda and June 11, 2026, minutes. Approved 4-0.

Staff Presentation:
Kelli Gerdes, Population Health Manager and Marcy Strasheim, Administration Manager provided an overview of the District 3 Public Health Lead Entity application, outlining the proposed structure, staffing model, regional collaboration efforts, initial draft funding projections, and planned activities to support public health service delivery throughout the district.

New Business:

1. Action Items:
    a. Take Action on Letter of Support from the Board of Health for Alignment:
    Motion by Jim Aberg, second by Betty Mallen authorizing the Board to sign the letter supporting its application to serve as District 3's lead entity. Approved 4-0.

b. Designate Posting Site for Agenda/Notices:
Motion by Analisa Haberman, second by Betty Mallen designating the department's front door as the posting site for agendas and notices. Approved 4-0.

2. Public Hearing: Thai Bistro and Sushi Bar License 178944 Suspension Appeal based on Iowa Code 137F and Iowa Administrative Code 481.30.10 and 481.30.11

The public hearing was called to order at 4:22 pm, opened by Board of Health Chairperson, Carl Ginapp. The following physical documents were made available:

- Iowa Administrative Code 481.30.10 and 481.30.11,
- Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health's Compliance and Enforcement Policy,
- A letter sent to the licensee dated February 25, 2026, noting recurring violations, lack of correction and request to attend an informal hearing,
- Notes from informal hearing held March 27, 2026,
- A letter of suspension detailing continued violations, the process to appeal dated September 10, 2026,
- The appeal letter from the licensee dated September 22, 2026,
- The notice of the public hearing delivered to licensee on September 28, 2026.

Jodi Willemsen, Environmental Health & Preparedness Manager and Danielle Crail, Environmental Health Specialist I presented an overview including the violations identified including lack of a certified food protection manager, dishwasher sanitation levels being inadequate, improper hot hold and cold hold of food, and improper inspection report posting. They also shared steps taken to gain compliance, communications with the establishment, and the circumstances leading to the suspension of the food establishment license.

Gentian Bajrami, Thai Bistro and Sushi Bar, Owner presented his perspective regarding the violations and circumstances leading to the license suspension. He described the corrective actions already put in place including having multiple employees already certified and more gaining food protection certification in the near future; systems he has implemented including a log of documenting dishwasher sanitization levels; using time as a control for rice being held hot (discarding after 4 hours) and logging this activity; and removing food and repairing the refrigerator for cold-hold violations.

Board members asked questions regarding the violations, corrective actions, and measures implemented by the establishment to maintain compliance. The owner responded to questions and provided additional information regarding the establishment's corrective actions and ongoing compliance efforts.

The hearing was called to a close at 4:42 pm.

Motion by Jim Aberg, second by Analisa Haberman for the Board to dismiss the suspension of Thai Bistro and Sushi Bar's food establishment license and instead authorize CG Public Health to create and implement a corrective action plan with the establishment addressing the violations and conditions identified by the Department, provided Thai Bistro and Sushi Bar remains in compliance with the corrective action plan.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:
Aye: Betty Mallen, Carl Ginapp, Jim Aberg, Analisa Haberman, Lisa Koppin
Nay: None

With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. made by Betty Mallen, second by Jim Aberg. Motion passed.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

Adopted by the Board on _____
(Date of meeting)

_____
(Signature of Presiding Officer)