

Hamilton County General Health District
PUBLIC HEARING – BOARD OF HEALTH
January 14, 2019 – 6:15 p.m.
Minutes

1. Call to Order

At 6:15 p.m., James Brett, President, called to order the public hearing of the Board of Health of Hamilton County General Health District, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members Present: James Brett, President
Mark A. Rippe, Vice President
Elizabeth A. Kelly, M.D.
Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.

District Staff Present: Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner
Craig Davidson, Assistant Health Commissioner
Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner
Nee Fong Chin, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Greg Varner, Finance Officer
Chris Griffith, Director of Water Quality
Mike Samet, Public Information Officer

Guests: Pelumi Adedayu, JoAnne Gilliam, Paul Vigar, and Ray Whifrom

3. Proposed Sewage Treatment System Program Fees Presentation

Director of Water Quality Chris Griffith reviewed tonight's PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Griffith briefly covered the Sewage Treatment System (STS) Program history and proposed Fee Changes. The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29 requires a restricted fund and fee categories must be adopted using a standardized cost methodology specified in OAC 3701-36-14. The last STS program fee update occurred in 2014, following ODH's statewide STS rules adoption.

Mr. Griffith explained cost saving advancements to the program over the last four years to help keep fees lower. Those include: online payments, electronic documents, and DoForms smart phone app and WebMaps. Also, pre-inspection notification postcards are sent 30 to 60 days prior with instructions how to prepare for the inspection. Integration of the STS database, online mapping systems and calendars improvements are saving inspectors' time, which results in lower fees.

The goals when looking at the proposed updated fees were to cover STS program cost projections, match price of fees closer to actual cost of service, and attempt to keep prices in line with other health district fees. That is not always possible however, as some other health districts subsidize their STS program fees with health tax levies, something HCPH does not have. To help match fee prices closer to actual cost of services, two new fee categories are proposed. One for second or greater operation permit re-inspection fees and the other to certify unpaid fees onto tax duplicated.

Over 19,000 notices were mailed to customers and contractors that are registered in Hamilton County and 16 comments were received. Comments were provided to the Board in a summary table. Comments can be grouped into three categories: two general questions about the fees, seven were confused about the mailing (thought it was an invoice), and seven were opposed to one of the fees or more. Ms. Puthoff inquired about one of the comments. Mr. Griffith indicated voice recognition software was used to convert the comments to text and he will follow up to confirm their question is resolved.

Mr. Griffith answered the only question received from the public in attendance at the hearing. Ms. JoAnne Gilliam inquired about collector lines and a neighbor's sewage treatment system.

4. Public Comments

There being no further questions, Mr. Brett thanked Mr. Griffith for the excellent presentation.

5. Adjournment

At 6:37 p.m. **Ms. Puthoff** moved to adjourn the public hearing; **Dr. Kelly** seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – All Aye



James Brett, President



Tim Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner