

**Hamilton County Public Health
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes – September 17, 2007**

1. Call to Order

At 6:32 p.m., President Mark Rippe called to order the regular session of the Board of Health of the Hamilton County General Health District.

2. Roll Call of Members

Members present: President Mark Rippe; Tracey Puthoff, Esq.; Kenneth Amend, M.D.
District Staff: Timothy Ingram, Health Commissioner; Kathy Lordo, Assistant Health Commissioner; Chris Griffith; Greg Cassiere; Lisa Humble
Guests: Pamela Dunn

3. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Amend moved to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2007, meeting. **Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Amend, Puthoff, Rippe

4. Health Commissioner's Report

Mr. Ingram covered the following:

- a) *Regulation 5-2007*, which amends the current plumbing regulation and addresses a recent change in Ohio law, effective January 1, 2008.
- b) The Health District continues to receive bedbug complaints and staff continue to advise individuals who ask for assistance.
- c) Should the Health District acknowledge employees' years of service? During the discussion, the Board generally agreed to do so.
- d) Mr. Ingram informed the Board of an employee cookout on September 24. Board members were invited. He also informed the Board of employee breakfast meetings being planned for early 2008; speakers will probably be arranged for these meetings.
- e) Mr. Rippe asked that staff be told how much the Board's appreciates the staff's customer service.
- f) The County Commissioners are switching employee health insurance to Humana. Mr. Ingram continues to gather information on possible options for employee health insurance. Once he has all the information, he will present this to the Board.
- g) Owners of New Baltimore C&DD landfill cancelled their meeting; the meeting has been rescheduled for the first week in October. New Baltimore has obtained legal council.

Assistant Health Commissioner Kathy Lordo

- a) The January 2008 date when Ohio birth certificates can be obtained at any Ohio health department has been postponed. The Health District has applied to be a pilot site when this starts up.
- b) In accord with the Tobacco Foundation, Health District health educators are guiding doctor and dentist offices on the use of the Foundation's "Quit Line" and providing training on ways to stop smoking. In discussing the smoke-free status of the 19 Hamilton County school districts, only the Princeton School District has a policy to be 100% smoke-free, which means not only in the school building but smoke-free at any school function on any school property. An October 3 workshop will be held to encourage other school districts to establish similar policies.
- c) Health District staff members continue to work with staff of day care centers to address the problem of shigella. Health District staff members also collect stool samples if a center has a case of shigella.

- d) After Rumpke submits a synopsis of the August Rumpke Youth Forum, Health District staff will then distribute the results to those who attended. This Forum was organized to address safe driving for teens.

5. Regulation 5-2007, Amending Sections I and II of Plumbing Regulation 1-97

At their June meeting, the Board asked for an amendment to the Health District's plumbing code that would address a change in the state law plumbing code. Ms. Humble explained that the submitted regulation adds the definition of a specialty contractor who will not need a state license because they will only be permitted to install outside sewer and water lines, no inside plumbing work. Homeowners, doing their own plumbing and meeting the qualifications to obtain a "homeowners plumbing permit," will not be required to have a state license; but they still need a permit. The Board agreed to table this regulation to the next meeting, since only three Board members were in attendance, and four board members are needed to dispense with the requirement to read the regulation at three consecutive meetings.

6. Variance

Pamela Dunn, 7781 New Haven Road, Crosby Township, requested a variance to use her existing aerobic discharge system, installed in 1984 before the new household sewage disposal requirements. She plans to remove her present two bedrooms, two bath single-wide mobile home and replace it with a slightly larger, two bedrooms, and two bathrooms double-wide mobile home. Because this change is, in fact, a "new" mobile home and "new" construction, the code requires a septic system meeting the current standards.

Staff recommended an on-site system and recommended that her request be denied. Ms. Dunn rejected the staff's recommendation because of cost and the necessity to clear the land and remove trees from her five-acre site.

In 2007, the Ohio Legislature approved Amended Substitute House Bill 119, Section 120.02(C)(1). This legislation provides conditions under which boards of health may approve a variance: 1) economic impact of the system on property owners; 2) state of available technology; 3) nature and economics of the available alternatives.

Before the discussion began, Board President Rippe swore in Mr. Griffith and Ms. Dunn with Mr. Rippe stating that legal counsel has advised the Board to do this from this point forward. Mr. Griffith presented, to the Board and to Ms. Dunn, a handout describing three alternative upgrades to the present system with approximated cost of each. He then explained the alternatives. Discussion followed.

Board members were concerned about approving a system that might cause a public health nuisance. They were also concerned should the property be sold to a family that would use more water. Dr. Amend asked to what degree might the proposed alternative discharging systems create a public health nuisance. Mr. Griffith explained: 1) Alternative one is a discharging system similar to those approved by ODH for NPDES discharge. 2) Alternative two does not meet all NPDES discharge parameters but does have a failsafe provision that does not allow sewage to pass through the system untreated and alerts the owners for repairs. 3) Alternative three does not meet all NPDES discharge parameters and does not contain complete failsafe prevention.

Dr. Amend moved: 1) to deny Ms. Dunn's submitted request, "to upgrade my existing two bedrooms, two baths single-wide mobile home with a two bedrooms, two bathrooms double-wide at the same location on existing lot and continue to use the existing aerobic discharge system;" 2) to grant a variance that permits Ms. Dunn three choices: a) the

installation of alternative one; or b) the installation of alternative two; or c) installation of the on-site system originally recommended by the staff. **Ms. Puthoff** seconded the motion.

Roll call vote – Yes: Amend, Puthoff, Rippe

Mr. Ingram told Ms. Dunn that the variance was good for one year and advised her to work with Health District staff.

7. Finances – Revenue and expenditures; mileage and disbursements

- a) Though the economic downturn in residential building has affected the revenue of several Health District divisions, the Health District is in the black. Commercial development has helped the Plumbing Division, and the stormwater contract has helped the Water Quality Division. Expenses are off approximately 15%, due to job vacancies.
- b) The Health Commissioner and the Board discussed the status of open positions; some positions will be filled and some will be deleted.
- c) Mr. Rippe asked about the Health District being “on track” to issue birth certificates for any birth occurring in Ohio. This change has been postponed until late 2008. This will give the Health District more time to prepare for this change.
- d) Again, the Board expressed appreciation of staff’s efforts in serving Hamilton County customers with Dr. Amend complimenting staff in Vital Statistics for expeditiously issuing a birth certificate so that a military family could be together. **Mr. Rippe** moved to approve the revenue and expenditure report for August 2007 and pay the mileage and disbursements. **Dr. Amend** seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote – Yes: Amend, Puthoff, Rippe

8. Employee seniority recognition

Mr. Ingram will put a proposal together considering such ideas as a certificate, a gift choice, gift card, paid time off, cash, all depending on the years of service. Should this be approved, this will probably require a change in the *Personnel Policy Manual*. The Board asked Mr. Ingram to conduct a simple survey for employee preferences.

At this time, Mr. Rippe expressed his thoughts on Amended Substitute House Bill 119, Section 120.02(C)(1) and added that the law change brings a different perspective.

Mr. Ingram said that how the variance for 7781 New Haven Road, Crosby Township, was presented with the cost of the options showed that the Board did consider the economic impact on the homeowner. Mr. Ingram suggested that the Board could also put a restriction on a deed when approving a variance.

9. Executive Session

At 8:03 p.m., **Mr. Rippe** moved to go into executive session to discuss litigation.

Dr. Amend seconded the motion.

Role Call Vote – Yes: Amend, Puthoff, Rippe

The Board returned from executive session at 8:13 p.m., and said no decisions or motions were made.

10. Adjournment:

With no other business to come before the Board, **Dr. Amend** moved to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. **Ms. Puthoff** seconded.

Role Call Vote – Yes: Amend, Puthoff, Rippe

Mark A. Rippe, President

Timothy I. Ingram, Secretary
Health Commissioner