



## BOARD OF HEALTH

### Minutes of January 8, 2007

Public Hearing to take testimony  
regarding proposed Amendments to Article IV

#### SUMMARY OF ITEMS

##### 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Macleod called the public hearing to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Thurston County Courthouse.

**Attendance:** Chairman Macleod, Commissioner Oberquell and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

Commissioner Macleod explained the purpose of this hearing is for the Thurston County Board of Health to take testimony on proposed amendments to Article IV of the Thurston County Sanitary Code. The proposal includes requiring minimum design flows for most, if not all, on-site sewage systems, restricting installation of on-site sewage systems on lots that do not meet minimum lot size, and requiring certain setbacks between on-site sewage systems and marine tidelands, Summit Lake and Lake St. Clair. Commissioner Macleod stated the Board first heard this matter on May 25, 2006. Subsequent to that hearing the Board asked Environmental Health Divisions staff to develop alternative proposals in response to public feedback and guidance from the Board. Commissioner Macleod stated copies of the three alternative ordinances for consideration were available at the back of the room. Commissioner Macleod then explained the process for taking public comments.

Art Starry the Division Director of the Environmental Health Division gave a summary and background of the proposed regulations explaining this is the second hearing to consider amendments to the Thurston County Sanitary Code regarding the standards that apply to permitting requirements for on-site sewage systems proposed on existing legal lots that do not meet the minimum land area requirements (lot size). He stated the draft ordinances also consider when the design flow for residential on-site sewage systems can be reduced to less than 240 gallons per day. Due to concerns about the application of the current regulations on applications for undersized lots, staff was directed to develop alternatives to clarify current regulations. Mr. Starry further explained at the time of the first hearing on May 25, 2006 the Board held the record open for additional comments and asked staff to meet with the Olympia Master Builders. A report consisting of all comments received was presented at the Hearing. Mr. Starry stated the two alternative ordinances for consideration at this Public Hearing were produced from comments made by the Board at the November 6, 2007 Board of Health meeting. Mr. Starry provided a brief overview of the original proposed ordinance and the two alternative ordinances presented.

The following individuals provided testimony:

1. Jim Henry (septic system designer/installer) – expressed concern regarding notification process for Public Hearings; expressed concerns regarding waiver options for setbacks on small lots.
2. Dick Yunker (septic system designer/installer) – expressed concern regarding notification

process for Public Hearings; expressed concerns regarding limit of waivers which are based on technical justification.

3. Mark Groening – Spoke in support of the Board’s intent, restrictions and efforts to tighten regulations.
4. Brandon Housekeeper (Olympia Master Builders) – stated none of the alternative proposed ordinances addressed topics he personally discussed with staff; would like “technical justifications” described by staff prior to the Board making a decision; suggested allowing an existing task force be allowed to look into proposed ordinances.

When all testimony was complete, Commissioner Macleod stated the Board will review the testimony received, along with the proposed code amendments, over the next few weeks and any amendments to Article IV will be adopted at a meeting of the Thurston County Board of Health. Commissioner Macleod further stated the Board of Health agendas are posted on the county Board of Health web page before the meetings. Commissioner Oberquell requested all those who testified at the May 25, 2006 hearing and those present at this meeting be notified of the ordinance adoption.

**2) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Thurston County, Washington**

**ATTEST:**

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ROBERT N. MACLEOD, Chairman

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Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

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Absent  
CATHY WOLFE, Member

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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DIANE OBERQUELL, Member