



# BOARD OF HEALTH

## Minutes of December 1, 2008

### 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Oberquell called the meeting to order.

**Attendance:** Chairman Oberquell and Vice-Chairman Macleod, Commissioner Wolfe, Environmental Health Division Director Art Starry and Clerk of the Board Lydia Hodgkinson.

- a) **Approval of Agenda** –Agenda approved as submitted.
- b) **Approval of Minutes** – Commissioner Macleod moved to approve the Minutes of January 7, 2008 and November 3, 2008 as submitted. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### 2) UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES - none

### 3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD - none

### 4) CONSENT ITEMS

- a) Physicians of Southwest Washington Subcontract to the WorkWell ASIST2010 grant project– Move to approve, and authorize the Director of Public Health and Social Services to execute, the Physicians of Southwest Washington Subcontract with a duration of January 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009 for a total maximum contract amount of \$16,200, and a forthcoming amendment to this subcontract for a maximum amount of \$30,000.
- b) Washington State Department of Health 2007–2011 Consolidated Contract #C14967 Amendment No. 12 - Move to approve and authorize the Director of Public Health and Social Services to execute, Amendment No.12 to the 2007-2011 Consolidated Contract No.C14967 with the State of Washington Department of Health in the amount of \$1,763,794 for a revised total maximum consideration of \$7,599,623
- c) Resolution H-8-2008 Appointing Alternate **2009** Thurston County Local Health Officers - Move to approve Resolution H-8-2008 appointing Alan Melnick, MD, MPH; Rachel Wood, MD, MPH; James Edstam, MD, MPH; John Bausher, MD; Steve Standaert MD, MPH, and Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH as alternate Thurston County Health Officers for **2009**.

**Commissioner Macleod moved to approve consent agenda items “a” thru “c”. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

## **5) USE OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY FOR ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM**

Steve Petersen, Environmental Health Division Program Manager, gave background information and explained the Department's request for clarification on a policy which provides possible uses of the county owned property commonly know as the General Howie Stone property, Tax Parcel #11923420200. General Howie Stone donated the property to Thurston County in the early 1990's. The property is located in the 8200 Block of 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE on Johnson's Point. In 1992 the Board of Health adopted a policy (#POL EH54-005), which allows nearby property owners to use this property to repair failing on-site sewage systems. The policy lists criteria for consideration when using the property. The Board of County Commissioners in September 1996 approved a motion to allow Gerald Hardy, who owned property at 8044 61<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE (Tax Parcel #11923130700) to explore an on-site sewage system repair on this property. Mr. Hardy did not move forward with the septic system installation and the previous agreement to utilize the property expired. The residence on the Hardy property has been vacant for several years. Paul Krakow, President of PDSK Properties, has acquired the Hardy property. Mr. Krakow would like to explore using the county property for a sewage system repair. Mr. Petersen introduced Mr. Krakow who addressed the Board. Mr. Peterson explained an issue has arisen regarding the policy and the criteria for using the property. Specifically the policy states, "The repair is permitted for the existing structure only." Mr. Krakow would like to change the location of the residence on the lot and expand the footprint. After a brief discussion the Board requested a separate briefing time on December 8, 2008 at 3:30 to discuss the details of the proposal with Mike Cain of the Development Services Department, Environmental Health staff and Mr. Krakow. Mr. Petersen will schedule the briefing time with all parties.

## **6) HENDERSON WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Art Starry introduced Linda Hofstad and Dave Tipton both Environmental Health Specialists and Sue Davis the Supervisor of the Water Quality Program of Environmental Health. Ms. Hofstad and Mr. Tipton provided the Board with an overview and statistics of the Henderson Watershed Protection Area Program. On November 21, 2005 the Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners adopted ordinances to modify Article IV and the Henderson Shellfish Protection District to create the Henderson Watershed Protection Area. The new program was adopted to help reverse the trend in shellfish closures and worsening water quality in Henderson Inlet by assuring that septic systems are properly maintained and repaired when failing. This program went into effect January 1, 2007 and is being phased-in over a three year period. The program requires that septic system owners within the Henderson area have their septic systems inspected at least every three years and complete any needed maintenance or repairs. Those systems designated as high risk due to soil conditions and proximity to water must also have a dye test evaluation every six years. By the end of December 2008 roughly two-thirds of the owners of septic systems within the Henderson Watershed Protection Area will have received notice of the need to inspect their systems. More than one-third of the owners have successfully had their systems inspected and serviced as needed and been issued an operational certificate. Mr. Tipton also described other elements of the program which include an extensive homeowner training and inspection certification and an incentives program. To date the Department

has conducted 79 workshops and certified 1143 homeowners to conduct their own septic system inspections. Nearly \$28,000 in rebates has been issued to homeowners for the installation of 556 septic tank access risers, and 38 small grants have been awarded to assist low income homeowners pay for inspections and needed maintenance. Ms. Hofstad, Mr. Tipton and Ms. Davis addressed the Board's questions. The Board expressed their appreciation of the Program and Staff's hard work. Commissioner Wolfe expressed support for applying this program in the future to other sensitive areas in the County.

**7) SET PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE I APPENDIX A OF THE THURSTON COUNTY SANITARY CODE (THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEE SCHEDULE)**

**8)** Art Starry requested the Board set a public hearing to consider amendments to Article I Appendix A of the Thurston County Sanitary Code which is the Environmental Health fee schedule. He explained the Department proposes to adjust certain fees within the Environmental Health Fee schedule to help keep pace with inflation and increased personnel costs. Under this proposal food service, solid waste, water recreation, drug lab clean up, school survey and investigation fees will be increased by 5%. In addition fees charged for the analysis of drinking water samples will be increased by \$3 per sample. The fees for on-site sewage systems, land use reviews and water systems will not be adjusted at this time. This is the first of several steps that will be taken to assure that fees charged are appropriate for the services rendered. In early 2009 fees for on-site sewage systems, water systems and land use reviews will be evaluated in conjunction with Development Services and Development Review. Later in 2009 fees for the food service, solid waste, school and pool programs will be thoroughly reviewed and adjustments proposed as needed to implement a true cost recovery model. Mr. Starry noted given the budget difficulties facing the department it is important to take steps to keep fees in line with the costs associated with services as soon as possible. The fee adjustments will provide up to \$45,000 of revenue over the course of the year and were included in the department's 2009 preliminary budget. Article 1, Section 4.1 of the Thurston County Sanitary Code states a notice of public hearing shall be published in the County newspaper at least 10 days prior to the hearing. A Board of Health policy states a public hearing notice shall be published in the County newspaper at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Mr. Starry proposed a 10 day hearing notice enabling the Board to take action on this item in December 2008.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

The Board agreed to waive the 20 day notice and allow a 10 day notice. The Ordinance shall be revised to include the 10 day notice of public hearing allowance as per the Sanitary Code.

**Commissioner Wolfe moved to set a public hearing on December 16, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 280 of the Thurston County Courthouse to receive testimony and consider action on an ordinance amending Article I, Appendix A of the Sanitary Code for Thurston County the Environmental Health Fee Schedule.**

- 9) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - none
- 10) **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT** - none
- 11) **ADJOURNMENT**

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
Thurston County, Washington

**ATTEST:**

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DIANE OBERQUELL, Chairman

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Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

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ROBERT N. MACLEOD, Member

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

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CATHY WOLFE, Member