

**NORTON HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Tuesday, May 23, 2006**

The Health Advisory Board of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in the Shirley L. McGuire Community Center Boardroom. Chairperson Daniel Karant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Daniel Karant, Nancy Delnay, Dalia Spisak,

ABSENT: Dr. Robert Littlejohn, Mike Zita

ALSO PRESENT: Joseph Harrison, BHD Health Commissioner

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A.) Tuesday, April 25, 2006:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Tuesday, April 25, 2006, and Chairman Daniel Karant called for a motion. **Ms. Dalia Spisak moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Nancy Delnay. ROLL CALL: Ms. Spisak-Yea, Ms. Delnay-Yea, Mr. Karant-Yea. The motion passed 3-0, approving the minutes as submitted. They were signed and processed accordingly.**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

A.) Norton Health Advisory Board (NHAB) Goals:

Ms. Spisak stated that the minutes of Tuesday, April 25, 2006, should be referred to often to help the Board move forward to achieve its goals. A brief discussion followed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Discussion with Mr. Joseph Harrison, Barberton Health District (BHD) Health Commissioner:

Chairman Karant referred to the NHAB minutes of Tuesday, April 25, 2006, stating that some of the NHAB members had issues regarding the stability of the BHD. They wondered if their future financial status would allow them to continue servicing Norton in the same manner and/or would the contract cost remain the same. Mr. Harrison answered that the service would remain the same, there would be no changes. He said that the BHD has and would continue to serve Norton better than the Summit County Health District (SCHD). Mr. Harrison explained that a copy of the BHD budget was in the Barberton Board of Health (BBH) packets which he was informed that the NHAB would receive. Mr. Karant said that they had not received a packet prior to the last BBH meeting. Mr. Harrison said he would ensure that they receive them in the future.

Mr. Karant stated that one of the issues discussed at their last NHAB meeting was Mr. Harrison's upcoming retirement. This issue, however, was covered at the BBH meeting the following night. Mr. Harrison explained that he would not leave the BHD until a new Commissioner was trained and in place. He added that the first round of interviews would be completed in a few days and there were some good candidates. Mr. Harrison commented that one issue they were dealing with in finding a new Commissioner was the residential requirement. There was further discussion.

B.) Emergency Preparedness Exercise (EPE):

Ms. Delnay asked about the status of the Emergency Preparedness Exercise (EPE). Mr. Harrison said that it was being coordinated by Mr. John Vincent and was scheduled for August 12, 2006. He said that the Emergency Response Commission (ERC), was meeting regularly and discussing emergency issues and concerns with such groups as local hospitals, funeral homes, Police and Fire Divisions, Barberton and Norton Schools, etc. He emphasized that this was a 'community-wide project', not just a 'Health District' project.

Ms. Delnay wondered if there were any incentives planned to help get volunteers for the EPE. Mr. Harrison said that the Barberton Community Foundation gave Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), which is half of the grant. Hopefully, the Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation will supply the other half. Ms. Spisak asked if Mr. Vincent would present information regarding the EPE to the BBH or to each Council. Mr. Harrison said that Mr. Vincent has been presenting information around town and will be at the BBH meeting next month. Ms. Spisak suggested that marketing be incorporated with incentives to help get volunteers. Mr. Harrison explained that there was a marketing plan, but they did not want to begin the publicity too soon. Mr. Karant mentioned that in his experience, advertising in the 'Trading Post' has been effective in reaching a lot of people. He also mentioned that he had Center for Disease Control (CDC) training so he had a good concept of how to record, distribute and dispense medicines. Mr. Harrison said that the Swiper System does not work, so they have to use paper for the recording. Mr. Karant suggested that they not rely on computers because during an emergency there may be no electricity. Mr. Harrison said that the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) wanted electronic recording because it would enable them to redistribute the vaccine faster and easier. Mr. Karant said that it has been proven in a few states that electronic recording slows down the distribution. There was continued discussion and it was agreed that an EPE will be good for discovering problems now in order to be better prepared for a real emergency.

C.) NHAB regarding the Norton Charter:

Ms. Spisak informed the Board that she attended a Charter Review Commission meeting and told them that she believed the NHAB should be included in the Charter to ensure that no matter what Health District Norton is contracted with, there would be an NHAB. Ms. Delnay agreed because the NHAB is helpful to the health and well being of the City.

D.) Update on the next BBH meeting:

Mr. Harrison said that there would be two hearings on sewage connections at the next BBH meeting. He also said that the Summit C&D Disposal was expanding to Phase II. The BHD requested that they comply with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) requirements, but they are claiming grandfather rights. Mr. Harrison said that the Summit and McCoy Disposal is also expanding to Phase II. Their Engineer and the BHD's Engineer will be meeting to resolve the matter. There was discussion regarding the Disposal sites being discussed at the NHAB and BBH meetings between the years 2000-2002. Ms. Delnay asked the Secretary to check the minutes between those dates. The Secretary said she would forward any minutes found pertaining to those issues to the NHAB members.

E.) Beginning of contract with the BHD:

Mr. Karant introduced Mr. Steve Kyer, former NHAB member and Norton Councilman. He asked Mr. Kyer for his perspective on the beginning relationship of the BHD and the NHAB.

Mr. Steve Kyer, 998 Norton Avenue, Norton, Ohio 44203, said that when Norton was contracted with the SCHD, there were numerous complaints regarding solid waste issues. Norton Administration only had zoning code violations to lean on to help fix the issues. There were also several restaurants in Norton that people had complained about but were still passing health inspections. Mr. Kyer said that he felt the SCHD should have been doing more. He said he spoke with the Health Commissioner of the SCHD about combining the SCHD and the BHD to have a northern office and southern office to better serve the people. But the SCHD did not want to work with Mr. Harrison. After Norton contracted with the BHD, the solid waste issues and the restaurant issues were finally addressed and cleaned up. Mr. Kyer believes that the BHD has served Norton excellently. This does not mean SCHD is a bad Health District, but services are further away and inconvenient to Norton residents. He still believes that a unified Health District in Summit County with three offices would better serve the residents and would be more economical. He also felt another option would be for New Franklin, Barberton and Norton to unite as a joint health district. But for now, he feels it would be less expensive and more efficient for Norton to stay with the BHD.

Ms. Delnay and Ms. Spisak commented that the SCHD stated in Council that a local office could be put in place for the convenience of Norton residents and that the contract price would be the same as the BHD's.

F.) Child and Family Health Services (CFHS) Grant Distribution:

Mr. Kyer commented that the Child and Family Health Service Grant was distributed differently this year and the BHD received less than in past years. There was discussion regarding the Board, comprised of ten medical professionals, including the Health Commissioners from the Akron Health Department (AHD), SCHD and the BHD, that voted to change the way the grant was distributed. Mr. Kyer commented that Mr. Gene Nixon, SCHD Health Commissioner, recommended the new method of distribution and Ms. Delnay interjected that his was only one vote. She informed the Board that she serves on that Board and abstained her vote so as to not appear biased; the motion passed by a large margin. She added that this was not the first time this method of distribution was discussed.

Ms. Spisak said that if some of the populations of other cities are accessing the BHD, she believed that there needs to be a discussion by the people who are getting that money as to how they can take care of their people. The funds should be allocated in a different way if others outside of the Barberton and Norton area are accessing the BHD. Mr. Kyer said that the BHD would have to say that they would not want to serve anyone that lives outside of Barberton and Norton, and they would have to start driving to Stow or downtown Akron. Ms. Spisak said that she knew those people would still be taken care of by the BHD, so somehow the money needs to be allocated accordingly. She added that there is still a need for a location with better access, especially for seniors.

(Ms. Delnay left the meeting.)

Mr. Harrison explained that the decision has now been made to disperse funding in perspective to the population instead of the number of people accessing a specific Health District. He gave an example that if there were 600 people that needed a specific health service and 400 of them accessed the BHD, they would still receive less funding than Akron Health District (AHD) because Barberton's population is lower than Akron's. Even though the BHD might service the majority of people served by the three Health Districts in Summit County, they get less funding.

Mr. Karant stated that the point of this meeting was to find out if the BHD would continue to serve Norton with the same quality of service. This would mainly be due to the lack of funds that was distributed to them and also due to Mr. Harrison's upcoming retirement. The stability issue of the BHD needs to be discussed and put behind us so we can move forward with our goals.

Mr. Kyer commented that Norton was serviced for 36 years by the SCHD, which has been ample time to evaluate their services. Norton has been served by the BHD for five years and has received exceptional improvements over the SCHD. The BHD offers services not ever offered by SCHD and the BHD organized the Mosquito Abatement District (MAD). Realistically, if Summit County has the resources to pull the BHD and/or Norton back into the County system, he believes they will do it. What better way to do it than by decreasing their funding, so that their service level would be lessened.

There was continued discussion regarding the health-related services given to Norton by the BHD.

Mr. Karant thanked Mr. Kyer for presenting his perspective of the history of the BHD and Norton contract. He also thanked Mr. Harrison for answering some questions they had regarding the stability of the BHD.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Karant announced that the next BBH meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in Norton Council Chambers. There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Karant adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.


Norton Health Advisory Board Chair ~~V.-Chair~~


Norton Health Advisory Board ~~V.-Chair/Member~~

9-27-06

Date

*Norton Health Advisory Board Approved/Signed Minutes 05/23/06
Respectively Submitted by Cindy Hughes, B/C Secretary/Stenographer
3 pages + attachment*

