

**NORTON HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Tuesday, December 5, 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 7:09 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Daniel Karant, Nancy Delnay, Dalia Spisak, Mike Zita

ABSENT: Dr. Robert Littlejohn

ALSO PRESENT: Joseph Harrison, Health Commissioner (BHD)

Chairman Daniel Karant stated that the Board would move out of order of the agenda to discuss 'New Business' first. He explained that Mr. Joseph Harrison wanted to discuss the new sewage treatment regulation that would take effect in January, 2007.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) New Sewage Treatment System Regulation:

Mr. Harrison explained that there were political concerns about sewage issues in Norton. He explained that the State rules have gone from permitting anyone with a backhoe to dig their own septic system directly to having to hire a rocket scientist to design a septic system. He said that the new mandate was stringent and costly in operations and maintenance. Mr. Harrison continued to explain that only on-lot septic systems would be permitted and that according to Summit County records, Norton has approximately 1,500 off-lot systems. He said that some of them have not been functioning correctly for 20-40 years and there is a lot of sewage in roadside ditches.

Mr. Harrison said that the Storm Water Phase II was in the enforcement stage now to ensure that no pollution ends up in State waterways. He said that the Barberton Board of Health (BBH) is the bad guy, especially concerning the Weber Drive Sewer project because they have to do the local enforcing. He said the fees are astronomical because they have to pay Norton, Barberton and Summit County connection fees before they start digging. Mr. Harrison said that the new law states that septic systems will have to be abandoned whether or not they are functioning, if there is available sanitary sewers.

The Board discussed lateral lines being installed for easier connection. Mr. Karant said that if businesses were forced to install lateral lines, then they would probably move out of Norton and/or not locate in Norton because it is too expensive. But if there are no lateral lines, then it is expensive for homeowners to bore underground to connect to sanitary sewer lines across the road. He thought there should be some type of funding for laterals so that it would not be so costly to businesses. Ms. Nancy Delnay said that she knew of smaller communities than Norton that have received funding for water, sewer and paving of roads at the same time. She also said that Norton probably can not qualify for funding for these types of projects because they do not have their own zip code.

Ms. Delnay suggested that the Barberton Health District (BHD) submit a simple message regarding the new state law on Channel 15, our City website, and/or the Barberton Herald. The Board agreed that this would inform Norton residents that the BHD is merely enforcing a State mandate.

Mr. Harrison said that the BHD's job is to make Norton more sanitary. They are trying to keep well water from being contaminated and they get caught between the political problems. He felt that the NHAB could handle the public health aspect while the BHD takes care of the environmental health aspect.

Mr. Harrison said that the City of Barberton recently sued Norton regarding the water contract, so politicians are bumping heads again and the BBH is caught in the middle.

Ms. Dalia Spisak commented that because of State Mandates, no matter which Health District they are with, Norton homeowners would still have to connect to sanitary sewer.

Mr. Karant commented that the new law does allow permits for off-lot discharge, so the BHD has the ability to apply for a permit. Mr. Harrison explained that if someone has to continue an off-lot discharge system, then a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit can be applied for through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The local Health District can apply for an entire jurisdiction, if they do not apply then an individual has to apply. Mr. Karant wondered if BHD would do that and if it would be expensive. Mr. Harrison said they wanted to but they do not have all the information; Mr. Binic is still attending meetings in regards to this issue. Ms. Spisak wondered if application could be made to replace the same kind of septic system. Mr. Harrison said probably, but it would not be allowed if sanitary sewer was available. Mr. Karant added that an economic hardship would not be a viable excuse with the new law.

Mr. Karant wondered if the new law would effect the current sanitary hook up cases before the BBH. Mr. Harrison said no, because they are existing cases.

After discussion, the Board believed that this issue was beyond their scope and they should not get involved.

B.) New Health Commissioner (BHD):

Mr. Karant asked Mr. Harrison when the new Health Commissioner would be starting. Mr. Harrison said he was not sure, due to an illness in the new Commissioner's family.

C.) Smoke Free Ohio Law:

Mr. Karant reminded the Board that the Smoke Free Ohio Law would be in effect on Thursday, December 7, 2006.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, October 31, 2006, and Chairman Daniel Karant called for a motion.

Ms. Spisak moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Delnay. ROLL CALL: Ms. Spisak-Yea, Ms. Delnay-Yea, Mr. Mike Zita-Yea, Mr. Karant-Yea. The motion passed 4-0, approving the minutes as submitted. They were signed and processed accordingly.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A.) Update on the Sanitary Sewer Tie-in Project:

Mr. Harrison reported that approximately ten businesses in the Loyal Oak and Barber Road areas have hooked up to the sanitary sewer or have received permits to do so. He said that eighteen to twenty businesses still need to connect.

B.) Emergency Preparedness Exercise:

Mr. Karant reported that the Emergency Preparedness Exercise (EPE) held in August, 2006 went smoothly. There were, however, a few flaws pertaining to communication. He said that the radios' reception would not reach across the building

or outside. Mr. Karant also reported that in about one and a half years an EPE would be coming to Norton and should be held in the Middle School. He hoped that solid dispensing would be tested at that time.

C.) Flu Vaccines:

Mr. Harrison stated that the BHD still has approximately 450-460 flu vaccines left. He announced that they give them out on Thursdays at the BHD, and if any are left by the summer, they will have to be thrown away.

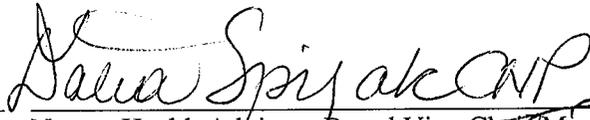
D.) Methamphetamine Awareness:

Mr. Karant wondered if the Methamphetamine awareness tape that Ms. Delnay prepared was ready for public viewing. She said that she would be taping it again and hopefully it will be ready in January 2007.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Karant announced that the next BBH meeting was scheduled on Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Barberton. He also announced that the next NHAB meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in Norton. There being no further business coming before the Board, Chairman Karant adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.


Norton Health Advisory Board Chair/Vice-Chair


Norton Health Advisory Board Vice-Chair/Member

1-24-07
Date