

**NORTON HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Wednesday, January 24, 2007**

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 6:30 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Daniel Karant, Dalia Spisak, Ken Braman

ABSENT: Nancy Delnay, Dr. Robert Littlejohn

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development
Paulette Kline, Deputy Health Commissioner, BHD
Ed Binic, Environmental Health Director, BHD

Chairman Daniel Karant introduced Mr. Ken Braman, this year's Council Representative to the Norton Health Advisory Board. He also introduced Ms. Paulette Kline, Deputy Health Commissioner for the Barberton Health District (BHD), who would be the Health Commissioner for the BHD starting February 1, 2007. Mr. Karant also introduced Mr. Ross Staddecker of the Barberton Herald.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Tuesday, December 5, 2006, and Chairman Daniel Karant called for a motion. **Ms. Spisak moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Braman. ROLL CALL: Ms. Spisak-Yea, Mr. Braman-Yea, Mr. Karant-Yea. The motion passed 3-0, approving the minutes as submitted. They were signed and processed accordingly.**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

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

Mr. Pritchard gave a brief, but informative explanation of the new Ohio Administrative Code-Chapter 3701-29; Sewage Treatment System Rules and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits. These regulations went into effect on January 1, 2007. He said the essential focus of the general NPDES permits was off-lot discharge systems, which could be small flows and/or from residential properties. This would be under House Bill 1.10 program through the local Health Departments. It is strongly suggested that the local Health Departments enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to issue these general NPDES permits, which has a Two Hundred Dollar (\$200.00) filing fee for each. If all guidelines are not met, a fine of up to Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) can be enforced.

Mr. Pritchard commented that one of the biggest changes is that if individuals within 400', (instead of 200') of a sanitary sewer easement who have been found to have failed or failing septic systems, would have to connect. He said this would effect a larger number of people.

Ms. Spisak wondered if a sanitary sewer line is available to a residential property would the owner be required to connect. Mr. Pritchard stated that ultimately they are required to connect, but the prescriptions read that they will not have to connect until the system is failed or failing. This excludes commercial units, industrial units and/or new constructions, which are mandated to connect.

The Board discussed that there is a lot of misinformation within the Norton community. Ms. Kline stated that at the last Norton Council meeting she offered to present the correct information at a town meeting. She said it was imperative to have consistent, solid information for the residents and she reiterated the offer.

Mr. Karant asked if an estimated number of homes that would be immediately effected by the new laws could be prepared. Mr. Pritchard said it could be done, but it would be difficult.

Mr. Pritchard said that the new regulations have opened more options to the homebuilders and are more scientifically based and in-depth. They allow mound systems, spray irrigation systems and drip irrigation systems, but will probably be very costly. Mr. Pritchard said that to his knowledge there is no one in Ohio legally permitted to issue an off-lot system permit at this time because they do not have a Memorandum of Understanding with the OEPA.

Mr. Pritchard said that Norton has a general NPDES permit through Storm Water Phase II, which has a minimum of six OEPA requirements to meet; one of them is illicit discharge. He believes that Norton is probably ahead of the rest of Summit County because they have already identified it's storm water out falls and have taken two samples. This should determine high chloroform counts and track them for a period of time to determine the problem areas. Mr. Pritchard explained that Norton is mandated to look at any areas that may have water quality issues and/or failing septic systems.

Mr. Pritchard said there were some issues with sanitary sewer connections at this time so the problem areas could only be identified. At a later date, and if Norton is successful, construction of a water treatment facility is planned; this will probably be a three-year period. Between now and then, with exceptions, we are going to have a difficult time remedying water quality issues of failed areas. Ultimately, however, sanitary sewers have to be installed to take care of problem areas.

Mr. Binic said that last year the BHD came up with experimental system policy for on-lot sewage systems. They chose not to place a minimum lot size in the policy. They instead chose to let the merits of a lot dictate whether or not a system could be placed on it, and what type of system. He said that policy is now history because of new regulations.

Mr. Binic thought that part of the confusion pertaining to sanitary sewer connections was due to the Weber Drive issue. For whatever reasons, those issues are frustrating and confounding the adoption and the release of the new regulations.

Mr. Binic reported that he sent a letter to the OEPA about three weeks ago requesting a Memorandum of Understanding. He just received the packet and would hopefully review it with the new Health Commissioner within the next couple of weeks. They could then do what they have to do (locally) to sign on and get that process in place.

B.) Methamphetamine Awareness:

Ms. Spisak reported that Ms. Delnay completed the Methamphetamine Awareness DVD and it should be ready for distribution at the beginning of February, 2007.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of Officers:

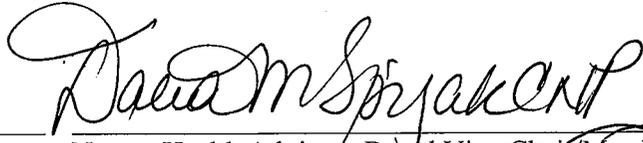
The Board decided to hold a special meeting for the election of officers since all members were not present that night; the date would be forthcoming.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business coming before the Board, Chairman Karant adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

(Immediately following the meeting, the NHAB members joined the BBH meeting being held in Norton City Council Chambers.)


~~Norton Health Advisory Board Chair/Vice-Chair~~


~~Norton Health Advisory Board Vice-Chair/Member~~

2-6-07
Date