

**NORTON HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Wednesday, September 19, 2007**

The Health Advisory Board (NHAB) 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 7:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Daniel Karant, Nancy Delnay, Gail Hickey, Ken Braman

ABSENT: Dalia Spisak

ALSO PRESENT: Ed Binic, Environmental Health Director, BHD

Chairperson Karant noted that Mr. Bill Conte was present as a visitor. Mr. Conte stated that he was there to observe the meeting as a Norton resident and as a candidate for Norton Council. He said that for years he has wanted to be more informed and more involved with the community.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, July 18, 2007, and Chairperson Karant called for a motion. **Mr. Ken Braman moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Gail Hickey. ROLL CALL: Mr. Braman-Yea, Ms. Hickey-Yea, Ms. Nancy Delnay-Yea, Mr. Karant-Yea. The motion passed 4-0, approving the minutes as submitted. They were signed and processed accordingly.**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Karant informed the NHAB that Mr. Ed Binic attended the Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) meeting that night but would be present later to report on the status of Norton health cases. At this time, therefore they would move out of order of the agenda until he arrived.

A.) Overweight Problems of Barberton and Norton:

Chairperson Karant stated that the NHAB had discussed making a health education documentary video for Channel 15 pertaining to various health items, such as poison prevention and overweight problems. He suggested that the Barberton Health District (BHD) might be interested in helping with this project.

Mr. Karant presented a flier regarding the 'Fit Kids' program given through the BHD by Mr. Mike Irby to schools. Mr. Karant reported that people in the United States work longer hours than most other nations. He believed Americans treat sleep as an inconvenience, not a necessity to refresh their bodies, which causes cortisol to rise and insulin metabolism to be less efficient as it should, which leads to various health issues.

Ms. Delnay said that the Johnson United Methodist Church was presently constructing a family life center. Part of the responsibility of having it is to set up programs for the health and well-being of the community. She said that the church is talking to Mr. Irby to do a joint venture regarding community fitness.

The NHAB discussed the rise in the percentage of meals eaten at fast food restaurants by Americans.

(Mr. Binic arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

B.) Status of Norton Health Cases:

Mr. Binic gave a report on the following:

1.) January 1, 2007, Statewide Sewage Treatment and Disposal Regulations:

The Barberton Board of Health (BBH) passed interim sewage regulations at their meeting on August 8, 2007 because the Ohio State Legislature rescinded the statewide regulations that had been in place since January 1, 2007. The local Health Departments were under some sort of edict by the State Legislature to consider economics with regards to whatever interim regulations each local Boards of Health would pass. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is under a lot of pressure from the State Legislature to have a new set of statewide regulations in place by July 1, 2009. The regulations adopted by the BBH last month will only be in affect for about one and a half years. The new regulations relaxed some of the design criteria, but kept them compatible with the soils that are generally prevalent in this area and should reduce the cost of some systems. Another portion of the regulations that was addressed pertained to the type of situation that occurred on Weber Drive. Another modification was that the local Board of Health would have the ability to set a time limit to connect to an available sanitary line if an individual's septic system is functioning and/or not a public health threat. The rescinded regulations required all individuals with septic systems to connect to available sanitary regardless of whether or not their septic systems were functioning and/or causing a public health threat. The local Health Departments are trying to get clarification regarding the 'economic consideration' edict from the State Legislature because there were no guidelines, which leaves it open to debate. This has caused a lot of unrest with them in addition to the State Legislatures threatening legal action.

There are approximately 120 local Health Departments in Ohio, so now we are back to approximately 120 different regulations, which is what we were trying to avoid. There is a number of Northeast Ohio Health Departments who are attempting to find a regional interpretation. The State was heading up regional meetings and were setting down guidelines; interpretations that they felt locals should accept for their interim regulations. No one knows the details, but there were some closed door meetings between key legislatures, governmental officials, politicians and key ODH people. At the last ODH meeting, the State officials said, no less than a couple of dozens of times, 'No comment, your on your own with this one'. Due to frustration of the rescission of the regulations, the ODH lost some of their key personnel who have spent half their career in a program, only to have politicians take it away.

Mr. Binic concluded his report regarding Sewage Treatment and Disposal regulations by stating that he was not sure if the local boards had the authority to adopt these regulations or not. He said that, in his opinion local health departments need to make a stand. He explained that if hit with some type of public health crisis, will a politician make a decision that we need to pave roads before we buy vaccine. This situation might be what we will face if this trend continues. Mr. Karant commented that as long as City Councils, Mayors and the State Legislature control the funding, there would always be that link, which is very unfortunate.

Mr. Braman asked Mr. Binic if he was aware of the ordinance that Norton has that if sanitary sewer is available you have to connect. Mr. Binic said yes, it applies to businesses. Mr. Braman said that he believed it was also for residents. Mr. Binic said that the word from the Administration is that they were not going to enforce it for residential. Mr. Braman wondered if that ordinance should be amended to leave that decision up to the local Health Department. Ms. Delnay agreed and stated that it could help alleviate any future legal issues.

There was discussion that the Realtor's and Builder's Association was the biggest lobbyist for that rescission of the Statewide Sewage Treatment and Disposal Regulations.

2.) Sanitary Sewer Tie in Benefits for Cleveland Massillon Road

Ms. Delnay wondered if there was an update regarding the Cleveland Massillon Road sanitary sewer tie-in benefits through the Summit County Health Department. Mr. Karant said he believed attorneys were handling this issue at this time. Mr. Binic explained that since the BHD was the enforcement authority, they did everything within their authority to get people to tie in, to no avail. Enforcement failed at the prosecutor's hearings, so those names were placed on a list that was submitted to Norton for final legal action. He was going to meet with Mr. Rick Ryland, Administrative

Officer, and Mr. Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development this Friday, September 28, 2007, regarding one specific case.

3.) Summit C & D Disposal:

The Environmental Review and Appeals Commission (ERAC) process with Summit C & D Disposal's appeal to the BHD's relatively strict terms and conditions continues. Mr. Lyons, Law Director, is representing the BHD and doing a great job and a lot of behind the scenes work. There has only been one formal trip to Columbus so far, unfortunately the process is just beginning.

There is an independent EPA investigation regarding the Summit C & D Disposal in which the BHD does not have any details. Ms. Delnay wondered if Mr. Binic knew from where the investigation was initiated. He said no.

4.) 3243 Houston Street:

The BHD had the privilege of working with Mr. Ryland and Ms. Pat Ryan, Building and Zoning Inspector, in regards to the solid waste case of 3243 Houston Street. Mr. Ed Wood and Mr. Mike Meusel, BHD, spent most of one day at the site collecting VIN numbers from vehicles as part of a court order leading to the disposal of vehicles and the cleanup of this large solid waste dump site. This information will then be submitted to the Summit County Prosecutor whom would hopefully forward it to the judge. Then the process of obtaining a grant award from the Solid Waste Authority for clean up could begin. Mr. Braman wondered if the owners had started the cleanup on their own. Mr. Binic said he heard some items had been removed.

5.) Loyal Oak Cider Festival:

Mr. Binic said that in the last several years there had been problems at the Cider Festival when the BHD Inspector inspected and licensed temporary food facilities. There was a major effort this year, thanks to Mr. Karant, for the BHD and the Festival Committee to work together. People were applying to the Committee and have been inquiring as to the legalities of food vending. Everyone therefore should be informed and there should be no surprises.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Karant announced that the next NHAB meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Karant adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.


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


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

10/17/07
Date

