



# Norton Health Advisory Board Memorandum

**To:** Karla Richards, Clerk of Council  
**From:** Paula Fisher, Boards & Commissions Secretary  
**Date:** 7/6/12  
**Re:** Norton Health Advisory Board Approved/Signed Minutes: May 17, 2012

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Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed minutes from the Norton Health Advisory Board meeting held on May 17, 2012.

Please note that the original document has been forwarded to, and will be on file with the Clerk of Council.

E-Mail: Mayor (per Admin. Asst.)  
Administrative Officer  
Finance Director  
Norton Health Advisory Board (5)  
Council (7)  
SCHD Division of Environmental Health

CC: NHAB File/Posting

**NORTON HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF NORTON  
Thursday, May 17, 2012**

The Health Advisory Board (NHAB) of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. Chairperson Safron called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT:** Mike Safron, Johanna Edwards, Cindy Mazey, Dalia Spisak, Charlotte Whipkey

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dan Karant, (Medicine Shoppe)

**II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

The Board reviewed the minutes of March 15, 2011 and **Chairperson Safron called for a motion to approve them. Ms. Edwards moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Mazey. ROLL CALL: Ms. Edwards – Yes, Ms. Mazey – Yes, and Mr. Safron – Yes, Ms. Spisak – Yes, Ms. Whipkey - Yes. The motions passed 5 – 0, approving the minutes as written.**

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Safron welcomed Mr. Mark Spisak from the Planning Commission to speak on the Nash Heights Sewer Project information. Mr. Spisak stated that he is Chairperson of the Planning Commission and he thought that he should come and talk to the board about the Nash Heights Sewer Project and it is just to open up a corridor of information and communication which will be in front of the project as eventually it will come before the Planning Commission and was looking for input before it does. Mr. Spisak stated that the board should deliberate on the health service needs of the city and the septic systems in the Nash Heights area are not well. Last month's test that resulted in 84,000/mil and limit is 5,000 which were 17 times the acceptable rates. The tests that were done were not in a good area for the counts that they got. Mr. Spisak talked about the discharge limits were established in 1972 and there are limits that need to be lived in. Mr. Spisak stated that if they could consider this project as a health problem in the city and evaluate it. Mr. Spisak stated that in 2009 when they looked at the project it was estimated that 70% of the septics were in failure at that time. The test was done by Cuyahoga County and was an outside source. Mr. Spisak stated that when they did the comprehensive plan in 2006 they recognized the needs to establish an infrastructure in the city and one of the first stages is getting a pumping station on Greenwich Road over by Golf Course Dr. so this is all part of the plans of the city and would like to open up some discussion with that.

Chairperson Safron stated to the public that was in attendance that the board does not create any policy and that they communicate concerns pertaining to the health of the city. He stated that therefore as far as policy making they do not do that. Chairperson Safron stated that he did communicate with a person from the City of Norton and that there is no person from the Health Advisory Board speaking. He stated that they can only evaluate what is presented to them, and what is presented to them is that there are failing systems from the report. He was asked to have lists of failures and he stated that he is not privy to them and he only has what has been provided by the Summit County Health District and that the people could contact them for the information.

Ms. Spisak stated that there is one thing she would like to add that as the Norton Health Advisory Board was commissioned by the Mayor to guide and assist him on issues that are health related. The members of the Health Board are professionals in their field with access to community health related issues. When an issue is presented to the board, they do research and collect data, analyze and discuss the issues and present them to our Council Board member and they presents it council if it needs to be legislated and that is what we do when we find out when the water that we live in and walk through is contaminated. The sewer and water issues in the entire city has been public discourse issue and what she hears Mr. Spisak saying is that you would like dialogue open and that you would like a resolution of support regarding the health issue that is

*Norton Health Advisory Board Minutes*

*Respectfully Submitted by Paula Fisher, Boards & Commissions Secretary/Stenographer*

*\*\* Note: These Minutes are not verbatim. \*\**

happening in the city. Ms. Spisak stated that the city has chosen Nash Heights and we have to start somewhere and that is why it is not specifically Nash Heights but that is how it has come about. Mr. Spisak stated that the key development to the infrastructure to the west side of town is that pumping station and it is hard to get things up hill but it all flows to this area from Nash Heights, parts of southern Ward 4 and Akron Wadsworth Road. Ms. Spisak stated another piece of information is when we came under Summit County Health Department; we have a City of Norton representative on the Summit County Health Department, Mr. Dan Karant, who comes to the NHAB and represents the city on the board. When we have major community health issues we also get information and data from SCHD which then is also under the Ohio Department of Health. The issue of colony counts that are too numerous to count that issue is simply too dangerous to allow to go on and that is the reason that the City Administration is moving forward and we do not want an unhealthy city. Mr. Spisak stated that it is to meet the Federal Guidelines of no discharge into navigable waters and from here it goes to Lake Dorothy, Wolf Creek, Tuscarawas then the Ohio River. Chairperson Safron stated that that is explained the Ohio Revised Code and the EPA Code and the City Ordinance and it is pretty clear the illicit discharge is not allowed. Ms. Spisak stated that the data and the facts are not disputable. Chairperson Safron stated that being we are and advisory committee we can not change the legislation. There was discussion from the audience that was barely audible and they did not give their names. The public asked for data supporting the health risks. Ms. Spisak we have guidelines created as becoming more knowledgeable and if numbers are what you want, if death and infection numbers is what you want, you need to get those from the Summit County Health District. Ms. Whipkey pointed out that she believed the citizens wanted numbers relating to Norton and the issues being stated as taking place in Norton. Mr. Dennis Pierson, a committee member in opposition to the sewer project, made several comments in contention with the counts reported earlier and sewer tie in mandates. Ms. Becky Vodiko, another member of the community committee, stated the people wanted to know about EPA mandates and want information as they cannot afford the project as proposed as they are afraid of losing their homes. It was pointed out that the board does not make legislature and are only a liaison between the city and the people. Ms. Spisak pointed out the people's worries was in itself a health issue and there is legislation through the state that must be met. The board was asked if they are in the health fields and what their backgrounds are to sit on the board. Ms. Edwards stated that she is a Registered Nurse and is in wellness services although not pollutant related. Ms. Spisak stated that she is a Nurse Practitioner and has spent time in community health both physical and mental and she stated that she knows where to get information and data. Chairperson Safron stated that he is a Laboratory Manager. There were other questions from the audience and Mr. Karant tried to answer a few of them. Mr. Karant pointed out that some systems from 1959 were allowed even though outside of the code on the pretense that sewer would be run within ten years and the variances were allowed. Not all systems are failing but when a certain number of them do, it must be addressed. Mr. Karant spoke of a few things that are trying to be done in the background. Mr. Karant stated that with the different systems and he stated that he can't answer the question of who is going to have to tie in or when. He stated that as far as the Board of Health they are here to test, help get data and assist the city but they don't come in and fix things the homeowners do and the EPA is the agency is the one that comes in and says you have this kind of problem and you haven't done anything and now it is their turn to say you have to pay this money and you still have to fix it so could cost us just like the City of Akron and should have been addressed years ago. Mr. Karant stated that the one of the problems is in this area is we need Public Works Monies to come into this community to allow us to do the conversion that we are being mandated to do and steps have been taken to try and get help. The county has to allow us to change the rules and it is a process. Mr. Karant stated that they are trying to work to get relief but he could not give a time table as it is a political process. There were more comments from the audience which stated they would just like to have the plans slowed down some. Chairperson Safron stated that we could do a resolution but we would have to discuss this. Ms. Whipkey stated that she thought the board would be doing a resolution to move forward. Chairperson Safron stated that we would have to discuss this more before we do the resolution and Ms. Spisak stated that the board was being asked to look at it. Ms. Whipkey stated that there needs to be some clarification of failing system can be little to nothing; you need to have systems that are beyond repair and cannot be replaced. Mr. Safron stated that a proximity to a tie in is by ordinance. Ms. Whipkey stated that the ordinance is tied into Summit County regulations and not totally upon the city ordinances. Ms. Whipkey asked Mr. Karant stated that on one hand we need it to be known and want options and the other hand we are not to say anything to be public. She stated that isn't it better to let it be known since the squeaky wheel gets fixed. Mr. Karant stated that they are just trying to not have a problem trying to get things done. Mr. Karant stated that he would really like to see the facts also and not just pick on this house or that house but all the facts of the area. Mr. Karant stated that as President of the Summit County Board of Health, they do not have the authority to come in and say what will or will not be done as they oversee actions as a board without a day to day concept as to what is happening in each area. He is hearing the people want some proof and he understands Rick Ryland has had testing done for 5-6 years and felt there was enough validity to it to move forward and prevent fining as took place in Akron. The people want to know the facts and if there is a pattern to the problem. The board needs to contact Summit County Health District, Ryan Pruett, and Bob Hasenyager and get the facts

from them and bring it back. Chairperson Safron stated that is the reason they will not be doing a resolution at this meeting and the board will seek out the information and you will be welcomed to come back to the next meeting. Ms. Whipkey asked if as a board they should write up a letter to send it to Summit County and tell them they want the information. Chairperson Safron stated that he will find research the information so we may be able to respond to the questions. Ms. Spisak stated that the request for information is perfect. Mr. Steve Piesciuk pointed out that with information a more rational approach of perhaps repairing septic could be used as opposed to installing trunk lines and burdening all with sewer tie ins required as the presence of the trunk lines is what requires the tie ins; no trunks means no tie ins and a good decision for all needs to be made. Ms. Spisak stated that information is the very next step we need and maybe there is a problem within the government to table it and collect the information and she stated that the data that you read here comes from the Summit County Health Department or it is information coming from the Ohio Department of Health. She stated that she knows that the water is a national issue. Chairperson Safron stated that they are going to look at the issue as a health issue. He stated that they are going to get the information not only from the Administration but also from Summit County Health District. Mr. Karant stated that he would like to recommend that the Board consider making a resolution to Council to see if we can fix the issue we have with using Public Works money for the conversion of septic to sewer and thinks it would be a valid recommendation from this board to get monies to help individuals pay for the project as opposed to paying for the entire project. 51:21 Mr. Karant stated that it would be a relief to the residents if that was something that could be changed. It was asked by the public where the information of counts of 84000 given to the public at the beginning of meeting came from and Mr. Safron stated it came from the Administration and Ms. Spisak confirmed the counts. Mr. Spisak stated the Administration had county people come in and tested 30-34 points in the city. The companies used were asked about and that information was unknown. It was pointed out the specimens collected were taken from different points where water was running and it was not known tonight the specific points taken outside of coming from Nash Heights area. It was stated that Nash heights, along with Bliss and Roop areas are problem areas. Mr. Karant that this data was being collected since 2009 and started with Barberton Health district; the data being used most likely came from Summit County as they are ones going through people's back yards. Mr. Karant pointed out that all the data should be a matter of public record. Mr. Safron again pointed out that the board's responsibility lay with making recommendations purely from a health standpoint and not financial. It was offered by Mr. Safron that the information used from 2009 came from a community meeting held by the city and could have involved the Beldick Motel. Upon another public comment being made on people losing their homes, the board admitted that the idea of people losing their homes due to the costs is a health problem also. Ms. Spisak stated that the board needs the information and clearly it has not been provided so before we would make a recommendation it will be looked at and the meeting time will be on the website. Chairperson Safron stated they would table the Nash Heights Sewer Project until they receive all the information about the counts. Chairperson Safron asked if there were any other questions and Mr. Spisak stated that he wanted to thank the Board for letting him speak at the meeting.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS:

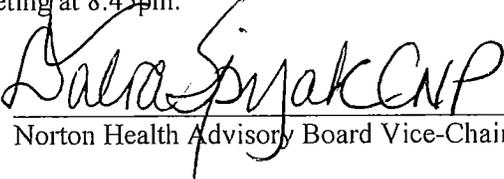
Chairperson Safron stated that the board would hold the rest of the agenda till the next meeting. Ms. Fisher stated that she had sent a message to Mr. Karant to find out about the ditching on Interstate 76 and the standing water and who was to take care of the spraying. Ms. Whipkey and Mr. Karant both found that MAD would be spraying the area for any mosquito problems.

Chairperson Safron asked if there were any more questions and hearing none asked for adjournment. The board agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2012 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. There being no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Safron adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

  
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Norton Health Advisory Board Chair/Vice-Chair

  
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Norton Health Advisory Board Vice-Chair/Member

Date 7-5-12