



BOARD OF HEALTH

The Thurston County Board of Health has responsibility and authority for public health in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

Minutes of December 16, 2016

1) Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Bud Blake, Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Vice Chair; Sandra Romero, Commissioner; Ramiro Chavez, Interim County Manager; Tom Stuebner, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; Robin Campbell, Assistant County Manager; Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director; and Kathy Patton, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Chair Blake called the meeting to order.

Vice Chair Wolfe moved to approve the meeting agenda. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Jon Pettit was called to address the Board. He commented on the Onsite Management Plan Fee Structure that would be voted on by the Board of Health at this meeting.

DEPARTMENTS ITEMS

3) Thank you Commissioner Wolfe & Opiate Substitution Treatment Expansion in Thurston County

a) Mark Freedman, Social Services Division Director/BHO noted this was a two part presentation.

Presented a piece of Glass Art and thanked Commissioner Wolfe for her dedication, work, drive, and involvement with the Thurston/Mason RSN (Regional Support Network) and now the BHO (Behavioral Health Organization) and trying to improve the social and health care services in the Thurston/Mason community. Commissioner Wolfe expressed her thanks.

b) Joe Avalos, staff with the Thurston/Mason Behavioral Health Organization, addressed the Board and requested opiate substitution treatment increase in Thurston County. Today they are requesting an increase from 650 to 1000 clients for the opiate substitution treatment beginning January 1, 2017 at the Evergreen Treatment Services South Sound Clinic

Background on this program included that in 2002 the Thurston County Board of Health authorized opiate substitute treatment and by statute the capacity for treatment was 350 clients. In 2009 and 2014 we came to the Board of Health with a request for additional increases.

Today we are requesting an increase from 650 to 1000 clients for the opiate substitution treatment beginning January 1, 2017 at the Evergreen Treatment Services South Sound Clinic. Currently there is a waiting list of 150 people to utilize this resource. This is a trend in our country over the last several years and has attracted national attention. The President (Obama) signed legislation this week allowing for more resources to go towards opiate treatment. The Governor (Inslee) in November signed an initiative to provide even more resources for opiate treatment in Washington State.

Vice Chair Cathy Wolfe moved to authorize additional treatment program capacity of 350 clients, for a revised maximum total of 1000 clients for opiate substitution treatment beginning January 1, 2017 at the Evergreen Treatment Services South Sound Clinic. Commissioner Sandra Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4) **Ordinance H-3-16 - On-site Sewage System Management Plan Rates & Charges**

Art Starry, Director of Environmental Health Division of Public Health and Social Services Department provided a brief history and process on how the On-Site Management Plan came to be adopted. The revised Ordinance has changed substantially since it was originally presented. State Law requires counties to have an On-site Management Plan. In 2008 a plan was adopted by the Board of Health. In 2013 we asked the Board if the plan could be reviewed because there had been several changes since 2008 when originally adopted. The Board gave the department authorization and a Citizens Advisory Committee was formed to review and determine appropriate recommendations of changes that should be made. The draft was completed in 2014 and the Board of Health approved a Resolution that adopted the plan on November 8, 2016. The plan is basically a road map on how we are going to manage septic systems in Thurston County. How we can provide outreach and educate people about septic systems, make improvements to our data management systems, and try to help find failing septic systems and help to repair them when they are found. The plan also required us to provide a funding recommendation, to you as the Board of Health, for implementation.

After the Public Health Hearing on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 we were asked to revise the fee structure. We were asked to provide a series of options for you to consider. As a result of the Hearing and meetings with you, we revised the fee schedule that you see here today. The majority of the Board asked that a base fee of \$10 be charged per septic system and that we keep the existing fee structure in place for Time of Transfer, Operational Certificate renewal permits, the septic tank reporting fee, and that we would keep the fee structure in place for Henderson and Nisqually.

Before you today is a revised ordinance that is substantially different, it adds a section that imposes rates and charges for septic systems that would go into effect January 1, 2018. It establishes a process by which we would set that charges for systems that are bigger than a single family home, and how that charge would be calculated. It adjusts the base charge based on the Consumer Price Index each year thereafter, which is currently in place for the Henderson and Nisqually Reach program areas, and is capped at 3.5%. Reduces charges by 50% for


property owners enrolled in the Senior/Disabled Property Tax Exemption program that the Assessor's office manages. This plan is simpler to explain, easier for the public to understand and reduced in size. The Ordinance reduces the amount of revenue generated from about \$750,000 to \$394,000 and the amount of staffing is reduced from 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ FTE. It does allow the plan to move forward but at a slower rate.

Jane Futterman, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Prosecuting Attorney, was tapped to help explain number five in Ordinance No. H-3-2016 regarding a three tiered fee structure. This item was mentioned to provide a chronology of what had been proposed as a reference to how the original Ordinance changed as we moved forward through the process. It was included in response to what you heard at the Public Hearing on December 6, 2016. This is not part of the fee structure that is being considered for approval by the Board of Health.

Commissioner Cathy Wolfe moved to approve Ordinance H-3-2016 imposing rates and charges on on-site sewage systems to fund implementation of the *Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan Update*, adopting Article IV, section 29 and amending Article IV, Section 24.1 of the Sanitary code for Thurston County. Commissioner Sandra Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 5) **ADJOURNMENT** - Vice Chair Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting of December 16, 2016. Commissioner Romero seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington



BUD BLAKE, Chair


not available to sign

CATHY WOLFE, Vice-Chair

not available to sign

SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Kathy Patton, Clerk of the Board

Date: 2/14/17

