



BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of May 18, 2010

Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding ordinance to amend Article I, Appendix A (the Environmental Health Fee Schedule) and Article IV, Section 16 of the Sanitary Code for Thurston County

SUMMARY OF ITEMS

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Valenzuela called the public hearing to order at 5:00 P.M. at the Thurston County Courthouse.

Attendance: Chair Valenzuela, Vice-Chair Wolfe, Commissioner Romero, Art Starry Environmental Health Director, and Clerk of the Board Kathy Patton.

Commissioner Valenzuela explained the purpose of the hearing is for the Thurston County Board of Health to receive testimony on an ordinance to amend Article I, Appendix A (the Environmental Health Division Fee Schedule) and Article IV, Section 16 of the Sanitary Code for Thurston County. The proposed ordinance amends operation and maintenance requirements for on-site sewage systems, including requirements applicable at the time of property transfer, the associated fees, and requirements for renewable operations certificates.

Article IV was amended January 1, 2010 to include requirements for evaluating and reporting on the status of on-site sewage systems in preparation for the sale or transfer of property. Under the current code, these requirements will become effective June 1, 2010. In anticipation of the implementation of these requirements, Environmental Health Division staff identified modifications needed to effectively administer the time of transfer program. These modifications include:

- Who is authorized to perform the inspections and prepare reports;
- Exceptions from the pumping, inspection and reporting requirements where these tasks have been recently performed; and
- Provisions for the Environmental Health Division to evaluate the inspection reports, permit records, and report on the status of the on-site sewage system.

If these code amendments are adopted, the On-site Sewage System Time of Transfer fee must be increased to cover the additional cost of evaluating the records and issuing reports to the applicant, and a re-submittal fee would be established for applications that require additional evaluation. The implementation date would be moved to September 1, 2010 in order to have time to prepare education and internal processes, documents, and an on-line application and payment process.

Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director gave a brief presentation of the proposed changes of Article I, fee schedule and Article IV, Section 16. Mr. Starry provided additional details and

background on the requested changes. This program will identify septic systems that may be failing and repair them, as well as inventory septic systems within the county. After the adoption of the code in January of 2010, staff realized that a key component of the program was missing, which is the reporting process back to the property owner that could identify problems with the septic system.

The fee proposal would authorize and give us the tools and financial resources to have the staff necessary to do this work. The difference between this proposal and the one that is in code today is this helps us identify violations and inconsistencies with permit records and operation and maintenance records and it will allow us to report back to the applicant. Onsite professionals would be doing the work of inspecting the system and turning in the records of their inspection to the County.

Mr. Starry outlined the public information process that was utilized to notify the public and industry professionals of the proposed changes. He also outlined the fee and associated costs. Thurston County certified professionals will be allowed to complete the inspections, not registered sanitarians or designers.

Commissioners asked questions related to the process, fee structure, and who is allowed to do these inspections. There were some concerns about the county not doing onsite inspections. Mr. Starry indicated that we would build into the program a quality control inspection process.

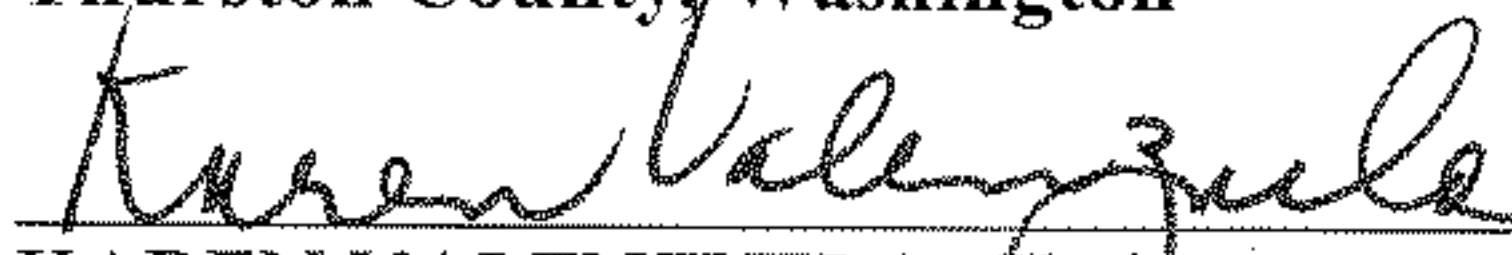
Commissioner Valenzuela asked if anyone wanted to provide testimony. There was one person in attendance who did not testify. The Public Hearing was closed by Commissioner Valenzuela.

Commissioner Wolfe made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. Commissioner Romero seconded and the motion was approved.

2) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


KAREN VALENZUELA, Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Vice-Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Kathy Patton, Clerk of the Board

Date: 7/6/10