

TOPSFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting of Thursday, August 25, 2011 ~ 7:30 pm
Topsfield Town Hall, 8 West Common Street

With a quorum present, in the absence of the Chair, Ms. Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm
Board Members Present: Sheryl Knutsen, Acting Chair; Dr. Vincent Guerra; Wade Goldman; Gerry Topping;
Not Present: William Hunt
Also present: John Coulon, Health Agent; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary, Selectman Dick Gandt

Abbreviations Used:
BOH Board of Health
HA Health Agent
GPD Gallons Per Day
MEMA Ma. Emergency Management Agency
Public Information:
Agenda

APPOINTMENTS

Vote: 116 Boston Street, Kerry Cheever

Present: Gordon Rogerson, Hayes Engineering

Request: Extension of Perc Test Data Validity

The current Perc Test Data for 116 Boston Street expires September 8, 2011 per TBOH Reg. R:1-2.3 sec 15.

Mr. Coulon reported there are two approved designs for house and barn, noting there is no expiration for design plans where ownership remains the same. He confirmed there are no changes on the property.

Mr. Topping made a motion to extend the Perc Test results for two years based on the fact there are no changes on the property. Mr. Goldman seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Vote: 28 Wilmor Road, John and Linda Harvey

Present: Gordon Rogerson, Hayes Engineering

Variance Request Form 9A local Upgrade Approval from TBOH Reg 1:1-2.3 sec 8 (a)

The Health Agent stated he reviewed the septic design plan submitted August 10, 2011. It is determined it to be in compliance and ready for approval if the Board grants the request in reduction of the daily flow from Topsfield regulations of 200 GPD to 110 GPD allowed by Massachusetts Title V. Mr. Coulon recommended approval.

Mr. Rogerson identified the existing tank is located under the deck. The wetlands were accepted by the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Topping made a motion to grant the variance to reduce local by law of 200 GPD to Title V 110 GPD at 28 Wilmor Road. Dr. Guerra seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote

Vaccine Clinics

Ms. Knutsen referenced a letter from the Commissioner John Auerbach dated August 22, 2011 regarding vaccination services. Massachusetts Department of Public Health will no longer provide vaccines for insured adults 19 years of age and older. They will, however, continue to work with local Health Departments to be reimbursed by insurance companies for the cost of vaccinating.

Ms. Knutsen introduced the new documents identifying those who are eligible for state supplied vaccines and those vaccines available. Employees of public sites are no longer eligible for state funded vaccines e.g. fire, police, town hall etc.

She reported that Topsfield's allocation is now 160 seasonal flu doses (about half of previous amount)

The focus is on children 6 months through 18 yrs of age.

Federal Vaccines for Children Act allows the state to be reimbursed from the Federal Government for the cost of vaccines.

The Board talked about how to best set up a vaccine clinic under the new guidelines recognizing it is not the role of the BOH to police who is insured. The Board agreed to apprise the BOS of the situation and that the BOH will administrate a clinic and anticipate running out of vaccines unless additional vaccines are purchased by the town for approximately \$4,000.

Mr. Coulon identified the Department of Public Health line item has been taken out including Division of Sanitation, which is responsible for state level inspections of e.g. swimming pools and support to local BOH for inspection of e.g. camps and local inspection of jails; this is now the responsibility of the regional local BOH.

Mr. Gandt confirmed there is no money in the budget to fund the vaccines He added that this does not meet the criteria for a Reserve Fund transfer.

The BOH talked about their role and the importance to get out the information (flyers, newspaper, internet) about the importance of vaccinations; it was the consensus of the Board that one clinic be held at the Proctor School after school hours; the school supports the clinic.

Mr. Goldman questioned targeting the children and suggested the focus is on the senior population citing they are more at risk for serious illness.

Mr. Coulon suggested working with Council on Aging to provide transportation to local clinics e.g. pharmacies. He stressed the importance that seniors know they cannot be charged a co payment for flu shots.

The town can purchase additional vaccines at the lowest price paid for by the state; extras cannot be returned.

The BOH will issue a letter to the BOS to be read publicly at their meeting regarding vaccinations. The BOH will be present at the meeting to answer questions.

HEALTH AGENT'S REPORT

At the direction of the Board, Mr. Coulon will inquire about identification badges for the Board members.

Emergency Preparedness/ Medical Reserve Corp

Mr. Coulon talked about the preparedness for the pending Hurricane Irene. MEMA is holding a conference all at 12:30 pm each day regarding hurricane preparedness. The emergency plan has been reviewed including a regional shelter if needed.

Mr. Coulon announced that reductions in State aid are expected in the FY 13 budgets.

*Mr. Coulon said that eight Topsfield residents re trained at FEMA level ICS 400; this is for multiple emergencies.

*BOH Clerk Sheryl Knutsen is the eighth Topsfield Official to be trained to the FEMA level of ICS 400.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote: July 2011 Minutes

Dr Guerra made motion to approve the July BOH minutes as edited. Ms. Knutsen seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting Schedule

The BOH reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the remainder of the year and it was agreed to meeting September 22, October 25, November 16, and December 22.

Boraczek's Septic and Drain; Letter Issued 8/17 threatening cease and desist of operations. The company provided the needed documents to the BOH office as required earlier today.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Coulon reviewed that last month 64 Wenham Road was in line to receive a Certificate of Completion upon the receipt of the As-Built-Plan. He informed the Board that the plan was sent back in non-compliance; it did not have the distances to the four corners of the leach field. As required per Title V [310 CMR 15, 302 (5)]

FINANCIALS

The BOH reviewed and signed the bills as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Coulon talked about beaver activity in town. He stated that the culvert at Pye Brook Park (Hovey Road) has a "beaver deceiver" device. The structure had a fence installed to capture debris. The fencing became blocked with material and raised the water level upstream; people abutting the stream have been calling DPW with flooding issues requesting the fencing be cleared. The Health Agent was asked for his opinion: if the debris is considered a beaver dam.

Mr. Coulon said that any structure requires maintenance and the Highway Department should maintain the water flowing through the culvert. This is consistent with other similar situations.

The BOH supported Mr. Coulon's opinion.

10:11 pm Mr. Topping made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley