

EAST AMWELL BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
7:30 p.m. East Amwell Municipal Building
February 27, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Statement of Compliance

The regular meeting of the East Amwell Board of Health was opened on February 27, 2018 at 7:30 PM. The following notice was read, “In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was advertised in the February 8, 2018 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was forwarded to the Township Clerk’s office, posted on the Township bulletin board, and sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat on February 22, 2018.”

Present: Tracy Carluccio
Les Hamilton
Larry Tatsch
David Wang-Iverson
Leonard DeCandia, Alt. 1
Janis Grover, Alt. 2
Dan Wyckoff - Hunterdon County Division of Public Health

Excused: Pauline Serafin

Absent: Charles Van Horn
Peter Miller

Announcements/Agenda Review

Under Hunterdon County Inspector’s report, Mr. Wyckoff said that Owens (Woody’s) should be removed – the complaint is closed. He did, however, provide some comments under his report. Also, a new complaint is added: a solid waste violation at 40 Boss Road.

Presentation of Minutes – January 30, 2018 Reorganization Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes with minor typing corrections offered by Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Wang-Iverson, and the following: on page seven, line nine, remove the word “existing well” and replace with “proposed new well location” and line 10, remove “for the new well is being made” and replace with “to the septic system.” On page 9, paragraph 3, line 1, change “250” to “200.”

Open to the Public

The meeting was open to the public for comment. There being no comments, motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Tatsch, and carried to close to the public.

Unfinished and New Business

HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S REPORT

1. Owens (aka Woody’s)- Block 16, Lot 11: Mr. Wyckoff said that he saw that the Board was looking for a final letter from the state. He explained that the LSOP was the final notice and no additional letter would be forthcoming. Mr. Wyckoff will get a copy of the notification for the Board’s files.

2. Speedway – Block 15.01, Lot 2: Mr. Wyckoff saw that Mr. Wang-Iverson was concerned about the overflow from the recent breakout. Mr. Wyckoff explained that the breakout was contained to

the area of the tanks, and there was no flow beyond the system and nothing over the ground. The breakout was limited to the surface of the tank tops, and the tanks are being pumped regularly to manage any overflow. Since the Notice of Violation, repair permits have been obtained by the excavator from Hunterdon County and East Amwell Board of Health to repair the mound. Mr. Wyckoff spoke about the placement of a straw fiber material around the erosion area to hold silt and allow grass to germinate, and the contractor is waiting for better weather to complete this. On a question from Ms. Carluccio, Mr. Wyckoff said that it is made of biodegradable material and lets grass grow through.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the cause of the breakout. Mr. Wyckoff said that it was unknown. He added that the tanks are pumped once a month. The system is being inspected, and reports should be issued; Mr. Wyckoff will follow up with these inspectors to get the inspection reports. Ms. Carluccio suggested that a strong message be given to the inspectors for these reports. Mr. Hamilton asked who was doing the inspections, and Mr. Wyckoff will get the name of the company doing them and provide it to the Board.

Mr. Wyckoff also added that the proposed change in the nature of the business will not be approved until the septic issue is resolved. Ms. Carluccio said that Dunkin Donuts will then still remain on site at this time.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked about the low water meter reading of around 1,900 gallons a month. Some comments were exchanged, including possible math miscalculations, getting water from another source than on site, questions whether dishes were washed on site or elsewhere, etc. Ms. Carluccio had Mr. Wyckoff confirm that the water cannot escape the meter. Mr. Tatsch spoke about his theory that detergent got into the aerobic tank and aerated, causing the foam to breakout rather than water from the system.

Mr. Wyckoff said that they will continue to monitor the property.

3. Asphalt Millings – Block 30, Lot 20: Mr. Wyckoff said that there was a first hearing in court, and the Judge rescinded the license suspension for the property owner. Another court date was set for April 9.

4. Notice of Violation – Solid Waste, 40 Boss Road: Mr. Wyckoff had no information on this complaint, which was just received in the mail by the Board of Health yesterday. He was not the officer issuing the complaint. He will report back to the Board at the next meeting and email the Board if he receives any updates.

The Committee thanked Mr. Wyckoff for his report.

PREVIEW COMMITTEE

Septic System Alteration – Altvater, Block 27, Lot 1.03, Route 31

Doug Fine, a Licensed Engineer in NJ, was present for this discussion. He provided the Chair with a revised sheet showing the correct distance showing no neighboring wells within 200 feet (rather than 100 feet, previously shown on the plan) The preview committee reviewed the application for an alteration,

which was accompanied with a letter from the County and one from the engineer on why a request for a waiver was being made.

Mr. Fine explained that the design is for a three bedroom existing house with a malfunctioning system. The house is for sale, and soil logs were done. Sheet 2 of the design shows an aerial view with the topography of a lot with steep slopes and a heavily wooded area with mature trees. Mr. Fine explained difficulties in the getting a backhoe into the area for testing, referencing the existing tank and d-box area, and pushing the soil logs as far back as the backhoe could get on site. He said that he could not get any further to the north because of the drop in grade. He also said that he questioned whether the trucks would be able to get to the back of the site to build a system, so he kept the design towards the driveway to build. Four soil logs and two pit bail tests were done, and a system in compliance with the local ordinance will be built, except that the property is in the Mountain District, and the engineer can get within 100 feet away from the well, but not 200 feet without surpassing the property line.

Mr. Wang-Iverson asked if trees would be removed to install the system; Mr. Fine said yes, for grading purposes. He explained the location of the house sitting up on the property but dropping off significantly in the back. Mr. Fine also had maps with gray shading which was an area that would require a General Permit for Wetlands as wetlands or a transition area. He was in touch with Jeff Turella from NJ DEP regarding the need for the permit and certification. Mr. Fine provided certification from NJ DEP of a General Wetlands Permit to mitigate a malfunctioning septic system with there being nowhere else on the property to put the system.

Mr. Tatsch asked about the soil logs showing indications that they were being done in wetlands. Mr. Fine said no. He said that he designed the system as a conventional system with a four-foot mound to address any mottling at 30 inches.

Ms. Carluccio spoke about the property drop off and slope. Mr. Fine provided specifics of existing grade at 389 feet and the garage floor at 399 feet, a good 10 feet below the garage slab and dropping off steeply thereafter. Ms. Carluccio commented on trying to go further away with the system and having a problem with the slope. Mr. Fine agreed, adding that the wetlands had to be considered too. Mr. Fine again said that this was why he was requesting the 100 foot setback from well to septic system rather than the locally required 200 feet.

Ms. Carluccio said that the new plans submitted tonight showed a note that there were no neighboring wells within 200 feet, not 100 feet, and there are none. Mr. Fine said that the neighboring houses are pretty far, referencing some on Lakeview Drive. Some comments were made about a tributary on lot 1.04 on the north side.

Ms. Carluccio explained that the design is a repair to an existing system, and the Board of Health can give waivers to their regulations as long as the repair is an improvement over the existing system and is closer to the State Code. According to Hunterdon County approval of the design, review of the documents, and the fact that a distance for the bed being 100 feet from the well is allowed in the state code, the local Board can approve the design with the waiver. It was also noted that the GP 24 Wetlands Permit has been received for the design.

Motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Tatsch, and carried unanimously to approve the septic design for Block 27, Lot 1.03, with the following waiver: The Board of Health approved the waiver of the proposed disposal bed being 100 feet from the existing well.

Items of Discussion

There were no education or health issues to discuss. Under Board Secretary's Report, the Clerk added that most annual food licenses have been issued, and reminders were sent to about 3 or 4 food establishments to obtain these licenses.

Correspondence

Speedway Meter Readings for 1/30/18 were noted.

The NJ Local Boards of Health Information is from an organization that sends items on occasion; however, the East Amwell Board of Health does not pay dues for the organization.

Mr. DeCandia asked about the new septic system installed at Speedway that failed already; he spoke about testing the system and doing maintenance. Ms. Carluccio explained that as part of the approval and the state's requirements, the company must provide regular water meter readings and have a contract with a certified maintenance company to inspect it. She added that the maintenance companies must be experts regarding the functioning of the systems and provide inspection reports. Mr. DeCandia commented on the qualified report, saying it concerned him that they didn't know the cause of the system failure.

Mr. Tatsch explained that the term failure would be when there was raw effluent breaking out of the field and causing a public health concern with a need to replace the system. He said that this case was more of an anomaly. The system is a \$500,000 plus aerobic system almost the size of a public sewage plant. The concern was when the Hunterdon County Health Inspector discovered what appeared to be dried up septic on the cover of the tank, and the question was how did it happen. Mr. Tatsch again stated his theory that detergent may have been foaming on the cover; he added that the covers are not sealed but laid on top of the system. A health problem would have occurred if an employee stepped in the material and tracked it into the food area. Mr. Tatsch said that the County Inspector believes this to be a one time event, but all were in agreement that it would be good to know what caused it. Mr. Tatsch added that the system has a dial up system installed to notify the maintenance company if something occurs, and it is sized for 2,000 gallons a day while only using 2,000 gallons a month.

Ms. Carluccio said that when the original septic malfunction occurred and a notice of violation was issued, neighbors were notified to test their water supplies for bacteria; no problems were reported. She commented that all of the Board members were shocked when the recent notice of violation was issued, a month after installation of the new system. Ms. Carluccio said that the Hunterdon County Inspector makes a good effort in getting reports, speaking about difficulties in dealing with a large corporation for information rather than individual homeowners. She was confident that a report would be forthcoming.

Bills of the Evening

Motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to approve the bills of the evening:

Ferriero Engineering:	
Witnessing Fees (B38/L.29)	\$ 480
Witnessing Fees (B.27/L.1.03)	\$ 756
Witnessing Fees (B.30/L.6.01)	\$ 480
Hunterdon County Finance – 4 th Quarter 2017	
Health Inspections	\$1,750

Open to the Public

There being no members of the public present, motion by Mr. Wang-Iverson, seconded by Mr. Tatsch, and carried to close to the public.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Tatsch, seconded by Mr. Wang-Iverson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk