

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2011**

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members Tom Mielke, Marc Boldt, Steve Stuart present.

9:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Boldt inquired about consent item #1. John Wiesman, Public Health Director responded.

ACTION: Moved by Boldt to **APPROVE** consent items #1-3. Stuart seconded the motion. Board members Mielke, Boldt and Stuart voted aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING: Revision of Environmental Public Health Fees – Code Amendments under Chapter 24.18, Public Health Fees, Miscellaneous

Wiesman provided some background. Marni Storey presented. She stated the published draft ordinance they have before them is based on the five policy directives they gave the department.

Those directives are:

- Fees should be based on staff time and activity and include all associated costs (e.g., telephone, rent, mileage, overhead, benefits, time spent in trainings and meetings, etc).
- Each fee should cover its own costs - one fee should not subsidize another fee.
- Costs incurred due to services not directly related to permitting (e.g., complaint investigations and outbreak response) should not be calculated into fees. Funding of these services should come from county general funds.
- For outbreaks that are traced back to a specific business due to improper hygiene or business practice, the department shall charge that business with all County costs associated with investigating and controlling the outbreak.
- Program staffing should continue to be responsive to significant changes in service volumes, while ensuring that the department must maintain staffing levels that ensure expertise, public safety, and timely response to service requests.

Staff briefed both the Food Safety Technical Advisory Council (TAC) and the On-site Septic System Technical Advisory Council on the published draft ordinance. She shared their concerns including the increase from \$130 to \$305 for the “one to three day temporary food service permit fee.”

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The on-site septic system technical advisory council expressed four major concerns. Those concerns are:

1. **The increase in the Repair of Failure fee.**
2. **The council supports adding back in a Septic Release Letter fee. .**
3. **The increase in the OnlineRME (e-onsite) Reporting Fee.**
4. **The increase in the Septage Tipping Fee.**

The on-site technical advisory council requested the Board consider the following alternative to funding the operation and maintenance program. They recommend that all property owners with onsite septic systems pay an annual fee to support the program. The TAC feels this would create better compliance with the regulations, ease the burden on the professional industry in fee collection, and allow Clark County Public Health staff to focus on public health issues rather than acting as compliance officers.

Based on the feedback from both of these technical advisory councils, a second version of the fee schedule was presented. These proposals do not change the general fund request from the published draft ordinance. Further discussion ensued. Stuart stated he would like to see the materials in advance prior to the hearing so he has time to review the materials before making a decision. Mielke expressed concerns with the septic fees. Further discussion ensued.

The following individuals addressed the Board

1. Dale, Technical Advisory Committee stated he supports the proposed amendments.

(Further discussion ensued with staff and the Board regarding septic fees)

2. Mark Collier, Technical Advisory Committee stated the proposal is better and fair.

(Further discussion ensued with staff and the Board regarding septic inspections)

3. Mike Williams, Technical Advisory Committee, stated the proposal levels the playing field and keeps private industry from being the fee collector. He stated it simplifies things.

(Further discussion ensued with staff and the Board regarding collecting septic fees)

4. Paul Childers, Food Technical Advisory Committee stated his concerns regarding the 1-3 day temporary food service permit fee.

Mielke stated he was not prepared to adopt the ordinance at this time. Boldt and Stuart commented about outreach efforts. The Board decided to continue the hearing to the next Board of Health hearing.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wiesman announced their department received two awards and a promising practice acknowledgement last week at the annual meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). He stated the two projects were given the Model Practices Award which is the highest award programs can receive from NACCHO.

The first award was for their Health Impact Assessment for Active Transportation on the county's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The second award was for the Prenatal Patient Navigator project.

Another local initiative was honored with a Promising Practice Award. A promising practice is the same as a model practice except that it does not yet have as thorough of an evaluation. The project was a Geocoded Database for Measuring Neighborhood Food Access.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

None

Hearing adjourned

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BOARD OF HEALTH


Tom Mielke, Board Member

Marc Boldt, Board Member


Steve Stuart, Board Member

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Board

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Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. Digital recordings can be provided upon request. In addition, the Commissioners' hearings are broadcast live on CVTV, cable channels 21 and 23, and are also videotaped and repeated several times (www.cvtv.org)