

**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, November 14, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dorothy Bergin, Mike Blankenship, Leo Jenkins, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Brad Miller, Steve Parker, Shirley Sands, Karen Skoog

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly LeCaire, Sandy Owen, Matt Schanz, Dave Windom

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Vice Chairman Wes McCart called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. A quorum was present. Dorothy Bergin, Mike Blankenship, Kelly LeCaire, Wes McCart, Brad Miller, Sandy Owen, Steve Parker, Matt Schanz and Dave Windom attended in the Stevens County Commissioners office. Leo Jenkins, Mike Manus, Shirley Sands and Karen Skoog attended via telephone.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made be all.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances were pre-registered.

RESOLUTION 13-2013: UPDATING FEE SCHEDULE FOR NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Wes McCart suggested going through each section individually and having a separate resolution for each section, beginning with the on-site sewage system fees. Matt Schanz noted that the goal is 50% recovery. The majority of the revenue comes from permit fees. He said a great deal of expenditure is spent on violations. The proposed fee Increase for 2014 is a 16% increase. Our current fee for a sewage permit for single family residence is \$525. The proposed fee increase is \$600. We are under the average fee of \$682 when compared to other comparable jurisdictions in Washington and the Idaho Panhandle. Matt noted that environmental health staff is at low as we can go in response to the suggestion to reduce costs. The current fee for a repair permit is \$250. The proposed fee is 50% of the permit cost (does not apply to violation fee). This fee has not been adjusted for some time. The current violation fee for unpermitted system installation or disposal of wastewater in an unauthorized manner is \$900 (plus permit fee). The proposed fee is equal to the permit fee. Brad Miller asked if we still want the flexibility to waive a penalty. Matt said there still has to be disincentive for someone to not put in an unpermitted system and we need to make sure we are fair to everyone. He said it becomes very difficult to say one thing to one person and make concessions to another person. Matt said there is the appeal process and we also offer a payment plan as an option. Wes is worried that raising fees for sewage permits will discourage improvements in new construction.

Wes McCart moved to approve Resolution 13-2013: Updating Fee Schedule for Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Services to include the following:

ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Existing Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Violation Fee for Unpermitted System Installation or Disposal of Wastewater in Unauthorized Manner	\$900 (plus permit fee)	Equal to permit fee

Mike Blankenship seconded the motion.

Leo Jenkins and Shirley Sands feel that not raising the fees is going to be detrimental to the Health District and will prevent us from continuing to do business. Leo said all other utilities are being raised with inflation. Wes McCart said the 2014 budget is approved without these fee increases. Wes said part of the county revenue comes from new construction and if these fee increases discourage new construction, Stevens County may request a greater decrease in county contributions next year. Mike Blankenship said we are updating fees from 2012 that increased to \$525. Maybe six (6) years ago the fee was \$300 resulting in a 70% increase. He said the Health District 'took a hit' back in 2000 and thinks it is time for the State to support public health. He said the burden shouldn't be on the backs of the citizens. Mike Blankenship said enough is enough and if the Health District cannot maintain as is, then we should reduce requirements and reduce inspections. He said we need to go back to the State and say we have no money and reduce what we do to what we are able to afford. Leo said he agrees with some of what Mike said but said we cannot discontinue services that are essential to our communities as a whole. Leo said we need to raise fees to end deficit spending and suggested lobbying with representatives. Steve Parker said there is a broader scope of things that we have to take into consideration. We are allowing the State to continue to raise fees and we have to go to the taxpayers to fund it. Steve said in order to keep an entity alive, you have to stop business as normal. We are driving rural people to the cities. We have to be able to generate other forms of income and keep them productive and keep businesses going. Steve suggests keeping fees the same and finding a different strategy. Mike Manus and Karen Skoog agree to keep fees as they are given the positive month with new construction.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 14-2013: UPDATING FEE SCHEDULE FOR NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Matt Schanz said the goal of the sewage pumper program is 100% recovery. The proposed fee for a pumper renewal is double the fee without attendance to the annual pumper meeting. Matt talked about the importance of the meetings for our benefit as well as the pumper. He presented a fee comparison with other local health jurisdictions. Leo said our proposed fee increase is still under the other jurisdictions on the fee comparison. Leo said he doesn't think these increases are detrimental to constituents and would be beneficial to the District. Brad Miller said he would support these increases.

There was more discussion on the fee associated with meeting attendance. Mike Manus asked if meetings are held during the work day. Matt Schanz said they are during the day and we try to hold them during breakup when no one is working. The renewals are on March 31, 2014. Steve Parker said he has a conceptual problem with annual meetings having been mandatory but we have only offered them for the last two (2) years. Steve does not think that is right and now we have a penalty. Matt said we have used this concept in past fee structures with installers for quite some time. Brad Miller asked if there is an opportunity to make up the annual meeting if you missed one and if not, we should. Matt said installer meetings are in the evening and we could certainly offer a makeup meeting. Wes McCart agrees that information at the meetings is good, but asked if we are talking about increasing our costs. We will spend more money to have an extra meeting. Wes asked if it is worth it to do the meetings, given the cost to have the meetings. Dave Windom said there is coordination between installers and pumpers at the meetings. Wes asked if we could cover both groups in one meeting. Matt said the information doesn't pertain to each other. He would prefer not to do them together and said we aren't spending a lot of money on the meetings.

RECESS: There was a break at 10:45 A.M.

RECONVENE: The meeting reconvened at 10:47 A.M.

Leo Jenkins moved and Brad Miller seconded the motion to approve Resolution 14-2013: Updating Fee Schedule for Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Services to include the following:

SEWAGE PUMPER

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Existing Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Pumper – New	\$120	\$145
Pumper – Renewal With Attending Annual Meeting	\$50	\$60 plus \$25 for each additional truck
Pumper – Renewal Without Attending Annual Meeting		Double fee
New Truck Inspection	\$60	\$72

Motion carried. Mike Blankenship, Wes McCart and Steve Parker opposed.

RESOLUTION 15-2013: UPDATING FEE SCHEDULE FOR NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Matt said we are not even close to the 50% fee recovery goal from the water recreation facility program. There was discussion about the flat fee of \$70 for pre-opening inspection of a new facility. Matt presented a comparison with other jurisdictions.

Mike Blankenship moved and Dorothy Bergin seconded the motion to approve Resolution 15-2013: Updating Fee Schedule for Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Services to include the following:

WATER RECREATION FACILITY

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Existing Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
New Permit	\$175	
Renewal Permit	\$175	
Operating Permit		\$210
Each Additional Facility at Same Premises		\$60
Pre-Opening Inspection of New Facility		\$70
Facility Operated by Certified Pool Operator		25% reduction in permit fee

Leo Jenkins asked if the \$70 flat fee should be changed to an hourly rate. Wes McCart said the motion would need to be amended. Matt Schanz said we have other line items that are charged at a \$60 per hour rate. Mike Manus said charging by the hour can be more cumbersome and depending on where the facility is, \$70 flat rate is a good deal.

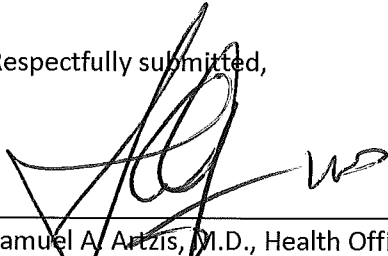
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 16-2013: UPDATING FEE SCHEDULE FOR NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Steve Parker moved and Mike Blankenship seconded the motion to table Resolution 16-2013: Updating Fee Schedule for Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Services for the drinking water program fees. Wes McCart said we can't set fees for Group B water systems when we haven't adopted the local rules. Matt said he hopes to mail the draft document to Brad Miller and Wes McCart for initial discussion before sending it to the rest of the Board for consideration at the January, 2014 meeting.

Motion carried. Leo Jenkins opposed.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chairman Wes McCart adjourned the meeting at 11:06 A.M. The next Annual meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 in Stevens County.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel A. Artzis, M.D., Health Officer

By 

Kelly D. LeCaire, Executive Secretary



Wes McCart, Vice Chairman