

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Conference Room A
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2007

Chairman Peschke called the meeting to order at 8:15a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Virginia Peschke, Chairman; Anna May Miller; Sandra Salgado; and Daniel Ryan. James Heisler arrived at 8:58a.m. Mary L. Donner and Randy Donley were absent. Also present: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Pat McNulty, Sherrie Gallas and Patti Nomm, Health Department; interested public and the press.

	Virginia Peschke, Chairman	
Randy Donley		Mary L. Donner
James Heisler		Anna May Miller
Daniel Ryan		Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the Public Health & Human Services Committee minutes of July 13, 2007. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved as presented with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PRESENTATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

TB Appointment – Rebecca A. Rockwood: Committee members reviewed an application for the reappointment of Rebecca A. Rockwood to the TB Board. Chairman Peschke stated that the positions on this board are very difficult to secure and it is nice to see the application for reappointment to the TB Board. After review, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan to recommend the reappointment of Rebecca A. Rockwood to the TB Board. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Peschke stated she forgot to ask if anyone wanted to address the committee members for Public Participation. Mr. Rich Dankert joined committee members to address complaints concerning a large dirt bike operation taking place in Alden Township. He stated he is a 14 year resident on Oak Grove Road and now lives with a situation that is unbearable. He noted that these individuals are running a commercial dirt bike operation and has received various ordinance violations for this operation. The dust created by this dirt bike track is unbelievable; wash hung on the line has to be rewashed because the dust is so bad. They spoke to some of the individuals who came to the track to run their dirt bikes and were informed that they are charged a fee for the use of the track. The complainant's were previously asked to file disorder conduct charges with the Sheriff's office. When the operation started up, he phoned the Sheriff's Department and informed them they would like to file disorderly conduct charges against their neighbors and requested assistance. An officer was dispatched, who was appalled by what she witnessed. When the officer interviewed the neighbor, they were told the attendee's were all friends just out to have a good time. When the officer called her supervisor to report what was going on and the supervisor didn't take the complaint seriously and told her not to file the complaint as they have a right to do what they want on their own property. Mr. Dankert stated they have been given the run around by individuals who refer them to the Health Department, who refers them to the Planning & Development Department, who refers them to the Sheriff's Department who then doesn't take their complaints seriously. He asked why the County creates ordinances if they have no intention of enforcing these ordinances. He noted the neighboring property was 18 acres of prime farmland and was zoned AG. The owners have graded the property, without installing any type of silt fencing creating an 18 acre pile of dirt and will not sustain any crops. They have received various violations by the IEPA and well as the Soil and Water division, but they obviously are ignored. Mr. Dankert informed committee members that he is very angry and expect officials to protect his rights as well. This dirt bike track advertises its operation all over the State of Wisconsin, inviting 100's of dirt bikers to attend this "open track", of which a fee is charged for its use. Mr. Austin noted that he received a copy of Mr. Dankert's letter and has a meeting scheduled today with representatives from the Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney, Planning & Development and Health Department regarding this complaint as well as other off hour

ordinance violations. Mr. Dankert questioned why there is a need to acquire a permit to have a kennel but to have a track they can do what they want because of the lack of enforcement. The track owners are cited and yet they continue to act like everything they are doing is okay. Committee members requested an update from the State's Attorneys office regarding this issue. Mr. Dankert suggested the County put in place a requirement for all dirt bike tracks to obtain a special use permit. He stated this way the County could regulate whether to approve these tracks or not.

PRESENTATION

Ms. Sherrie Gallas from the Health Department joined committee members to provide a presentation of the McHenry County Tobacco Survey. Ms. Gallas stated that McHenry County has a smaller percentage of smokers compared to the National Average. Also included was information on the new smoke free act that has been signed by the Governor. Statistic from area smokers were discussed with Committee members. Ms. Gallas noted that with the new law to take affect of January 1, 2008, the county will probably see some of the smokers in the County become non-smokers. Smoking cessation classes are being run in the Department of Health to help smokers as well. Committee members thanked Ms. Gallas for her report.

Mr. Heisler arrived at 8:58a.m.

NEW BUSINESS con't

Open Burning – Public Comment, Draft Ordinance, Discussion: Committee members were provided with a summary of public comments received during the public hearings held throughout the County. An important component received from the hearings was the need to have viable, economical options for the pick up of landscape waste as well as enforcement options. It was noted that no matter what options are considered it would take time to implement the changes. Concern was noted because Waste Management has been informing individuals that they do not have to pick up landscape waste. Committee members stated that as part of the waste haulers contracts with the County they are required to pick up landscape waste, but, the homeowner will be charged a fee. Committee members were informed that this would be a health ordinance so it would supersede any other burning ordinance. Changes to the proposed ordinance were discussed. Committee members stated that the ordinance should be approved now with enforcement to begin in April 2008. Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance with an immediate effective date and an enforcement date of April 1, 2008. The motion carried with all members present voting aye. Committee members requested the draft ordinance posted on the County Webpage and suggested a special presentation at the evening county board meeting.

Gypsy Moth Update: Mr. Labaj presented committee members with an update regarding the Gypsy Moths in McHenry County. Mr. Labaj noted there is a heavy infestation of Gypsy Moths east of Route 47 with at least 40 complaints received this year. This year was the third year of a three year contract for aerial spraying of the Moths within the County. Minimal spraying took place this year because the State was looking for areas not infested to spray. Mr. Labaj noted that officials have stated they would like to continue with the annual spraying to help with any future infestation. Funding has been placed in the budget for next years spraying. Municipalities and Townships have been calling to request their area added to be sprayed. Other units of government can participate in the program and they will bear the cost to spray within their area. Mr. Labaj noted he is going to try to set up meetings in the Fall in anticipation of next years infestation. A mass mailing will be sent out regarding this proposed meeting. If an individual calls they are being told the only remedy at this point is to remove the egg mass from the trees. It is also helpful if they use a spray washer using a soy soap product to remove the egg masses. Mr. Labaj noted that the more acreage within the spray area the better the price he can get for the spraying.

Pool Barrier Ordinance: Mr. McNulty informed committee members that the Board of Health is split on whether additional pool barrier options should be provided. A committee meeting was held prior to the Board meeting and they voted 4 to 2 against offering additional options. Committee members questioned what other entities offer within the United States. Mr. McNulty stated that some areas require fencing, some have no requirements and some require pool covers. He stated there are no perfect options. Committee members were informed that this issue will be on the Board of Health Agenda for general discussion. Copies of options will be placed in the committee members boxes for additional review.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

WIB: None

HRC: Committee members were informed that a news release will be sent out stating the Human Relations Council will take their meetings to the different communities in hopes of addressing community concerns. The first meeting will be held in Hebron IL. Complaints can be emailed to the HRC through the County webpage. Chairman Peschke stated that the Commission is questioning how teachers within the schools handle discrimination issues in the schools. She stated she would speak with the Superintendent of Schools to ask whether teachers are taught to diffuse an issue.

Housing Authority: None.

Board of Health: Mr. McNulty reported that it has been a great week for Public Health. The Governor has signed the Smoke Free Act, a visit was made by the State Director of Public Health, and a pandemic flu drill will be held at Johnsbury High School with Medical Reserve Corp help. The Board of Health President has been asked to throw out the first pitch at the CABA's first game, as the Health Department is a sponsor of CABA.

Animal Control: Bids have been sent out for the new Animal Control facility and are due back on August 14th.

Mental Health Board: The Mental Health Court is up and running. They are now at a stage in the Mental Health Court process where they need to determine who will address the management of the program. A task force over-site committee will put together a questioner to get feedback of the program and find out what needs to be done to move forward. They are now trying to address the kinks that are showing up in the program.

Noise Ordinance: None.

Open Burning Forum: None

Senior Service Grant Commission: Grant applications are due by August 1st. Mr. Labaj reported that a lot of different applications have been received for programs this year. They are in the process of finalizing the budget for the coming year's program. The next Senior Services Grant Commission meeting has been scheduled after the next Public Health meeting on the 10th. This meeting will include an overview of the applications received and review of statistics from the previous years grants. Interviews will be scheduled for the 24th and if needed, the first meeting in September.

VAC: The VAC has received their new van.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:54a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Appointment of Rebecca A. Rockwood to the TB Board

Recommend approval of Draft Ordinance for Open Burning of Landscape Waste for 30 day review

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